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Kuwait looks forward to further co-operation with Egypt: Sheikh Saad

International conference can only solve Middle East crisis

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah welcomed the visit paid to Kuwait by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday, saying it came amid delicate circumstances passed by the Arab nation which call for intensive exchanges and consultations among Arab leaders in all matters of present and future interest.

The Crown Prince also praised the fraternal and close relations between Kuwait and Egypt, emphasising that these relations are excellent at the official and public levels.

Asked about the newly-formed Arab Co-operation Council, comprising Iraq, Jordan, Arab Yemen and Egypt, the Kuwaiti Premier repeated his country's welcome of this Arab gathering and described it as another tributary "flowing into the greater Arab stream."

He said any effort that eventually leads to an all-embracing Arab unity would not only give added strength and invulnerability to the nation but would also pool Arab resources, project the Arab image and speak louder the Arab voice to other states, "which have worked and are still working to dismember the Arab nation in order to achieve their goals and execute their machinations."

Speaking of the stalled peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran to end their eight-year-long war, Sheikh Saad said he hoped that the resumed round of negotiations in New York during the second or third week of next month would reach an accord reinstating peace and tranquillity in this vital part of the world.

Sheikh Saad, emphasised the strong ties that link the Kuwaiti and Egyptian peoples, noting

that officials from Kuwait visited Cairo during the last few months with the purpose of enhancing co-operation between the two Arab countries.

Dismissed

Kuwait looks forward to further co-operation with Egypt, Sheikh Saad went on, indicating that Kuwait is ready to discuss with Egyptian officials areas of co-operation, whether at the official or private-sector levels.

The Crown Prince dismissed as baseless reports that investments of Arab oil countries were directed mainly to foreign countries, adding that Kuwait's investments in the Arab world are "numerous and varied."

Sheikh Saad underlined that the Gulf Co-operation Council will not hesitate to have consultations with the newly-formed Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Co-operation Council in economic, political and military spheres.

Kuwait believes the immediate termination of an international conference on the Middle East is the only guarantee for the establishment of peace, realisation of the Palestinian people's rights and



Sheikh Saad

Gulf war, Sheikh Saad said it had eased tension in the region and that Kuwait was quite satisfied with the warring parties' acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

About the presence of foreign naval forces in the Gulf, he said such forces have been in the Gulf since years before the war, and not only in the Gulf but also in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

The issue is consequently related to the major powers, Sheikh Saad explained.

Proposal

Concerning the proposal by HH the Amir at the UN General Assembly last September for scrapping interests on Third World countries' debts, Sheikh Saad told the Egyptian editors that many countries have shown support and zeal for the plan and Kuwait believes that many countries will benefit from it.

Kuwait will be ready to receive further responses on the best means of putting the proposal into effect, Sheikh Saad stressed.

The Prime Minister expressed concern in respect with the conflicting views of Afghan muja-

hedeens, saying such disputes may escalate further, giving foreign parties an excuse to intervene in Afghan affairs.

His Highness urged the Afghans to solve their problems peacefully instead of resorting to arms.

Kuwait, Sheikh Saad said, believes that an annual Arab summit meeting is necessary and that Kuwait has been following up efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and senior Saudi officials to clear the Arab atmosphere and pave the way for an ordinary Arab summit.

Sheikh Saad also said that OPEC's present and future destiny depends on the credibility of OPEC's members in connection with production quotas and oil prices.

Replying to a query about his planned visit to Egypt, His Highness said the visit will take place "very soon."

On the impact which the three Arab economic organisations (GCC, ACC and AMU) will have on the Arab League, Sheikh Saad said he was "optimistic" that they will consolidate the role

Major policy shift

Kuwait may end free services

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT is redefining its concept of the super-welfare state in a major policy shift that could put an end to many government services now provided free of charge, and drastically alter the character of the expatriate labour market.

The emphasis now will be on human resources development, Kuwait's Undersecretary of Planning Abdul Hadi Al Awadi told the Arab Times, in order to insulate Kuwait from a potentially grim future when the resource of oil dries up.

Spurred by what they see as indolence and waste in an all-encompassing welfare system, and the realization that efforts to integrate Kuwaiti labour into a predominantly expatriate work force have largely failed, government planners will redirect resources away from cradle-to-grave security towards an incentives-based strategy that emphasises basic hard work, which will hopefully affect the private sector.

Value

"They have to feel the pinch", Awadi said, "to know the value of the services the government provides."

In short, "stretch your legs to fit the blanket." But Awadi was quick to point out that change will be gradual. There will be no sudden withdrawal of benefits or the imposition of fees, he said.

"We are trying not to step on anyone's toes," he stressed. "We don't want to antagonise Kuwaitis or foreigners."

What all this means to the man on the street is not exactly clear.

The government appears reluctant to provide precise details. But the outlines can be seen from provisions under consideration.

These include fees of KD0.500 to KD1 for prescribed medicines, and unspecified charges for the use of some recreational facilities.

The Cabinet has already approved an airport tax of KD2.

On the labour side, expatriate contracts will be rewritten to include a clause specifying that expatriates must train a number of Kuwaitis. The government also plans to subsidise the employment of Kuwaitis in the private sector, encourage women's participation in the labour force, and revive a 1965 law which rules that Kuwaitis should make up 25 per cent of the work force in manufacture industries.

Intent

The government is also intent on teaching Kuwaitis—ranging from school children to ministry undersecretaries the value of planning. Special courses are being tailored for students and government officials. Bachelor and Master degrees in planning and development will be introduced at Kuwait University.

If all these provisions actually get past the planning stages the Gulf will see a Kuwaiti who, as described by Al Awadi, "is well-trained, productive, hard working, professional, loyal to his country and beliefs, who works for work's sake, who loves to share, who thinks not only of himself but also of the community he belongs to."

I Hussein in Brunei

MMAN, Feb 27, (Reuters): Jordan's King Hussein arrived in Brunei today on his way home from the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo, the local news agency Petra said.

He met the King at the airport.

Mubarak leaves after two days of talks

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (AP): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left for Cairo today after two days of talks here on Middle East issues, possible Kuwaiti financing for Egyptian development projects like deepening the Suez canal and the newly formed Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

Mubarak arrived in Kuwait yesterday on his way back to the Tokyo funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

On the Arab-Israeli peace process, a senior Egyptian official said Mubarak has rescinded an offer to travel to Israel.

"President Mubarak has changed his mind after (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir refused to pay any price for the visit by saying Israel will not attend an international peace conference on the Middle East."

Mamdouh Al Belagui, head of the Egyptian information department was quoted as telling Kuwaiti newspapers.

"Israel's rejection of peace has prompted the President to change his mind. He will not visit Israel if such a visit will not realise just and durable peace in the region," Al Belagui said.

The Egyptian President said that the Amir briefed him on the steps achieved by the Arab League panel toward resolving Lebanon's 14-year civil war.

Mubarak reaffirmed to Kuwaiti leaders that Egypt will remain a staunch ally of the GCC states despite joining the ACC, said diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ACC was announced in February, grouping Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq.

Iran asks Soviets to press Iraq for troop pullback

NICOSIA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Iran asked the Soviet Union today to promote peace in the Gulf by pressing Iraq to pull its remaining troops out of Iranian territory.

Tehran Radio said President Ali Khamenei made the call in a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on the last day of a Middle East tour.

It said both spoke of a turning point and bright prospects for Iran-Soviet relations.

Khamenei told Shevardnadze Iraq's reluctance to pull back its forces from Iran undermined chances for peace.

Talks

"Iraq must be pressed if peace in the region is desired and necessary, and we fell your government can exert this pressure more than anyone else," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Shevardnadze as telling Khamenei he had held "lengthy talks with the Iraqis in

which they declared their determination for progress in peace talks."

Shevardnadze discussed Gulf peace with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Friday. He said then that Moscow would do its best to move the stalled peace talks forward.

Moscow has a treaty of friendship with Baghdad and was its main arms supplier during the eight-year war—a fact that strained its relations with Tehran before a ceasefire ended fighting last August.

Closer

With Iran embroiled in a diplomatic row with the West over death threats to British author Salman Rushdie, the Soviet Union is in a unique position to influence the stalled peace talks.

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday endorsed closer relations with Moscow during an unprecedented meeting with the Soviet minister.

Shevardnadze gave Khomeini a reply from Mikhail Gorbachev to a message the Ayatollah sent the Soviet leader last month which described communism a museum-piece and invited Kremlin leaders to study Islam.

The Soviet minister told Khamenei the exchange of messages was a turning point which set the stage for expansion of relations in various fields despite ideological differences.

Amiri donation for Faw

BAGHDAD, Feb 27, (OPECNA): HH the Amir of Kuwait, has donated \$10 million towards the reconstruction of the southern Iraqi terminal port of Faw which was devastated during the Gulf war, it was announced here yesterday.

Iraq plans to spend billions of dollars on the reconstruction of Faw under a national campaign launched late last year.

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- کراچی پر رش کو نسل
- کانیز دست دھماکا
- وزیر اعظم بینظیر بھٹو
- امریکہ کا دورہ کریں گی
- سرینگر میں رش
- مظاہرے اور ہڑتال
- سوڈان وزیر اعظم کا
- ہونے کی وجہ
- کویت میں سرکار
- شہر کردی جائیں گی
- لاہور میں نامور اور

Sudanese premier threatens to quit

KHARTOUM, Feb 27, (UPI): Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi said today he will resign unless he receives a pledge of support from his rebellious military, which was stung by reports of its worst defeat yet at the hands of southern rebels.

Sadiq, facing a Monday deadline from the military to reform and moderate his government, appealed for more time in a speech to Parliament and said he would resign on Sunday unless he receives a pledge that the military will support his rule.

Hours later, the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) proclaimed the capture after a two-day battle of the key regional capital of Torit, handing the military one of its most humiliating losses of the five-year-old war.

Tension was high in Khartoum because of the military deadline, with soldiers stopping cars at all entries to the city and searching for weapons. Sources

said the military high command was meeting to decide its next move.

The armed forces, suffering a series of stinging losses to the Christian-led rebels, handed Sadiq an ultimatum last week demanding that he take steps to secure more arms and rebuild his government to admit moderate parties seeking peace with the SPLA.

Defence Minister Abdul Magid Hamid Khalil resigned a day earlier complaining the growing power of the National Islamic Front (NIF), a fundamentalist junior partner in Sadiq's coalition.

In his dramatic speech to Parliament, Sadiq asked the military to give him an undertaking not to mount a coup, and for labour unions to promise not to strike while he works to resolve the nation's problems. Unless those undertakings are given by Sunday, he said, he will quit on that day.

Israel seals off West Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 27, (Reuters): The Israeli Army ordered the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed off tonight to prevent unrest from spreading to Israel during local elections on Tuesday.

The 22-hour closure, starting at midnight, follows the stabbing of an Israeli border policeman and the shooting by soldiers of at least 17 Palestinian protesters.

Prevent

Military officials said the order would prevent the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories from entering or leaving Israel.

Underground leaders of the 14-month-old uprising against Israeli rule in the territories are calling a general strike for election day.

The PLO-backed leaders have vowed to halt transport in Arab east Jerusalem, captured by the West Bank from Jordan in 1967, and have urged the 140,000 residents of east Jerusalem to boycott the polls.

A total Arab boycott could cost Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek his majority on the city council, although he is assured of



A Palestinian youth aims his slingshot at approaching Israeli soldiers during a clash in West Bank. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv accuses opposition of supporting Sikh radicals

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (Agencies): India's opposition leaders walked out of the lower house of Parliament today after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi accused them of supporting Sikh radicals fighting for an independent homeland.

Opposition leaders said they would boycott the lower house until Rajiv withdrew his remarks and made "appropriate amends", and they asked the house speaker to reprimand him.

The prime minister, who must call national elections before the end of the year, told the house: "The opposition must be ashamed of its (advocacy of the militants') cause. Truth can be hard sometimes. Face it. Why don't you face it?"

Rajiv said ending extremist violence in Punjab was a primary goal of his government and he asked whether the opposition Janata Party was "willing to ask" for the resignation of a member who reportedly supported the goal of Khalistan.

Rajiv was apparently referring to Ram Jethmalani, a Janata Party legislator in the upper house, who several months ago in a public speech in Punjab said the aspirations of the Sikhs should be fulfilled and blamed the government for violence in the state.

Syria agrees to revive Arab committee

DOHA, Qatar, Feb 27, (AP): Syria has agreed to Soviet calls to reactivate a five-member Arab committee on the Middle East peacemaking process that includes its rivals, Egypt and the PLO, the Qatar News Agency reported today.

It quoted Saeed Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, as saying the Syrians told Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze while he was in Damascus last week that they will revive the committee, inactive for the last decade because of Arab differences.

There was no immediate confirmation from officials in Damascus. Syrian newspapers have made no mention of Shevardnadze's efforts to get the committee revived.

However, Shevardnadze noted in a speech during a banquet hosted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara Feb 18 that the Soviets welcomed a meeting of representatives from Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and the PLO.

These are the five members of the committee, which has been shelved since Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 and was ostracized by most of the Arab world.

The committee was formed in 1974 by an Arab summit in Rabat.

UN chief receives Nehru award

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (AP): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today received the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international understanding for steering the world body through troubled times.

Perez de Cuellar received a plaque and the Rs1.5-million (\$100,000) prize from Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman.

The award has been given every year since 1969 in honour of Nehru, India's first prime minister.

"The United Nations today represents mankind's hope of evolving something higher, something finer, something which transcends narrow or sectarian considerations which have caused so much turmoil and pain around the world," Venkataraman said.

All dissidents held in prison executed: Iran

BEIRUT, Feb 27, (Reuters): Iranian Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was quoted today as saying all dissidents held in Iranian prisons had been executed.

"To settle this matter once and for all, all those who have been arrested and those who joined them have been executed. They...announced war on the people," Mohtashemi told the Paris-based Arabic magazine Al Moustakbal.

Reports by the United Nations and the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International have put the number of executions in Iran in the last six months at more than 1,000.

"They killed and were killed," Mohtashemi told the magazine, which appeared on Beirut new-stands today.

Storms kill 19 in Europe

LISBON, Feb 27, (AP): Rescue workers today found the bodies of three more victims of storms that churned up 80 mile-an-hour (128 kilometre) winds and killed at least 19 people across Europe's western seaboard and Mediterranean coast, officials said.

In addition, rescue workers said 26 people remained missing and were presumed dead.

Yesterday's storms from Britain to Spain sank or disabled

eight ships with waves as high as 30 feet (nine metres). At least 80 people were rescued.

Calmer weather returned to Portugal today, but storms continued to lash northern Spain, western France and Britain.

Antonio Loureiro, an official of the National Meteorological Institute in Lisbon, said winds had died down to as little as six miles an hour (10 kilometres), Mediterranean waves washed

(Continued on Page 2)

Storms kill 19 in Europe

(Continued from Page 1)

over dikes along the French Riviera yesterday, inundating seaside restaurants at Cannes and washing over the Promenade des Anglais at Nice.

French police reported a 62-year-old man was killed when a big wave knocked him against a wall, a nurse was caught by a 25-foot (seven-metre) wave and drowned, and another woman's body was recovered from the sea. A fourth death was reported in France, on Saturday, when a young man was carried away by high waves and drowned.

In Spain yesterday strong winds knocked over billboards and blew off parts of roofs, killing five people in the eastern city of Valencia and two in central Valladolid, Spanish national radio reported. A man drowned when his canoe overturned in the Trasona reservoir in northern Spain, the radio reported.

A Nigerian cargo ship with 46 people aboard developed engine trouble two miles (three kilometres) off Cape Espichel, a rocky promontory of Portugal. Gale-force winds and 16-foot (five-metre) waves drove the 3,000-ton River Gurara onto the rocks and broke the ship in two, a spokesman for the Portuguese Navy said.

International conference can only ...

(Continued from Page 1)

of the League and will help solve many inter-Arab disputes.

Kuwait, he added, had expressed support for the proclamation of such Arab councils.

Questioned on his five-day visit to Iraq earlier this month, Sheikh Saad said his talks with President Saddam Hussein and Vice-Chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim had been "excellent, fruitful and positive."

He added that the visit was part of consultation and co-ordination among Arab officials, declaring "we in Kuwait look forward to closer co-operation with Iraq in many fields."

Commenting on activities of the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, of which Kuwait is the chair, the Crown Prince and Premier asserted that Kuwait has always been concerned with reaching a formula to stop the war of fratricide, raging on in the sisterly Arab country since October 1975.

Accord

He indicated that the committee's first meeting in Tunis with the heads of Lebanon's civilian and military governments and the speaker of Parliament had reached an understanding on ways and means of achieving reconciliation and accord among sons of the same country.

Sheikh Saad recalled that the

meeting was followed by a session in Kuwait last week attended by Lebanon's spiritual leaders and members of the League Good Offices committee.

"Most fortunately," the Crown Prince and Premier announced, "all these meetings were constructive and were conducted in a cordial atmosphere. All (present) showed the understanding that it is high time to reach a quick solution and to invite leaders of parliamentary blocks in Lebanon to meet either in Tunis, Kuwait or any other Arab country."

Summing up his stance, Sheikh Saad expressed optimism, saying "previous meetings and the silent majority in Lebanon have made the realisation that it is time to work speedily in order to save Lebanon from what has taken place and what is happening these days."

Conflict

Asked whether the new US President shows more understanding of the Mideast conflict in comparison with his predecessor Ronald Reagan, Sheikh Saad said he had had official and private talks with President George Bush during his visit to Washington last year, when Bush was the vice-president.

Bush, Sheikh Saad added, had full understanding of the Palestinian crisis, the Gulf war,

Lebanon and other issues and was also willing to help in working out settlements for such problems.

Asked if the problem that had erupted a few months earlier between British Petroleum and Kuwait had prompted reconsideration of foreign investment policies, Sheikh Saad said Kuwait had handled the issue patiently and prudently.

He said the concerned British authorities had later abrogated their former recommendations and put forth a new recommendation which Kuwait accepted, as it was congruous with its view toward the issue.

Explosive discovered

LONDON, Feb 27, (AP): Four packages of a powerful plastic explosive identified as Semtex were recovered today from a drained reservoir, Scotland Yard said.

The Czechoslovak-made explosive is known to have been used in numerous terrorist attacks.

No detonator was found with the four packages, which were discovered during routine maintenance at Green Lane reservoir in north London.

Scotland Yard spokesman Terry Norman said there was no immediately apparent connection between the find and any recent arrests or terrorist activity.

1,300 miners are on strike for eight days

Yugoslavia imposes 'special measures' in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Feb 27, (AP): Yugoslavia's federal presidency imposed unspecified "special measures" today in Kosovo province as military vehicles headed for a mine where 1,300 workers have been on strike for eight days.

Military planes twice flew over Pristina, Kosovo's capital, and armed vehicles were seen heading toward Titova Mitrovica, the location of the Trepca lead and zinc mines where the strike began last Monday.

Extra police units had been brought into the southern province over the weekend.

Protecting

The official Tanjug news agency said, "the presidency of Yugoslavia today ordered that special measures be introduced in Kosovo for protecting the constitutional order."

"The implementation of these measures was effective immediately," it said. "The public has not yet been informed of the precise measures involved."

On Saturday, the presidency — a nine-member collective body that controls Yugoslavia's armed forces — ordered internal security tightened in Kosovo.

It was not clear what today's announcement entailed.

Martial law was briefly imposed in Kosovo in 1981 after riots between the province's ethnic Albanian majority and security forces.

Tanjug said today that communist leaders in Kosovo had offered to resign in an apparent concession to the demands by the Trepca miners, mostly ethnic Albanians who want the unpopular party head of the province to step down.

Underground

But 800 miners from the Serbian and Montenegrin minority in Kosovo said today they would remain underground in another lead and zinc mine if the party leader, Rahman Morina, and two other officials resigned.

Morina and the others are ethnic Albanians, but are seen as



Ethnic Albanian coal miners staged a sit-in strike in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, where thousands of miners have led a seven-day general strike to oppose attempts to impose Serbian rule on the area. (Reuters wirephoto)

supporters of the Communist Party in Serbia, one of Yugoslavia's strongest republics. Serbian officials have been working for greater control over Kosovo, one of its two autonomous provinces.

A meeting of the Kosovo party leadership was expected later today to decide on Morina's future, Tanjug said.

The Albanian miners in Trepca, after intensive bargaining over the weekend, decided to continue their strike until they received written assurances that Morina and the others would resign.

Earlier today, the country's communist leadership issued an appeal to the miners to "stop imperiling your health and lives" and come out, saying their demands could be determined only in the legal, procedural manner, Tanjug said.

President Raif Dizdarevic of Yugoslavia, party president Stipe Suvor and other top leaders

came to Pristina to talk to the miners over the weekend.

More than 550 of the miners requested unspecified medical aid by last night, according to news reports, and at least one was said to be critical. The nature of his ailment was not given.

The mine is at Titova Mitrovica, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) south of Belgrade.

Tanjug reported late yesterday that Serbian, Montenegrin and other workers in the Kosovo municipality of Leposavic planned counterprotests and strikes unless a solution was reached by today.

Kosovo has been wracked by ethnic tension between the majority Albanians and minority Slavs, mostly Serbs and Montenegrins. The unrest has been fuelled by nationwide economic problems in Yugoslavia, a loose federation of six republics and two autonomous provinces.

Control

Serbia is the largest republic, and both provinces, Kosovo and Vojvodina, are part of it but not fully subject to its control.

Albanian protesters in Kosovo condemn what they see as Serbia's drive to gain greater control over the provinces by changing the constitution.

The constitutional change would increase Serbia's powers over defence and state security. The proposed change was approved by Serbia on Thursday. But the amendments must also be approved by the provincial assemblies.

Drug lord killed

BOGOTA, Feb 27, (Reuters): Presumed drug lord Gilberto Molina and 17 bodyguards were killed in western Colombia today, presumably in fighting with guerrillas, police spokesman said.

Molina died in a gunfight when about 30 armed men attacked his ranch about 75 km (47 miles) west of Bogota, police spokesman Miguel Gomez Padilla told reporters.

US criticises PLO raids against Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb 27, (Agencies): The United States said today like the one reported last week could undermine the objectives of Washington's newly established dialogue with the PLO.

Three members of the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) were killed on Thursday during an apparent attempt to infiltrate into Israel.

Israel said the group's infiltration bid violated the renunciation of terrorism by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat that Washington had set as a key condition to opening a dialogue with the PLO last December.

Israeli officials had urged Washington to break off its dialogue with the PLO.

Another US condition was recognising Israel's right to exist.

Incident

"If the initial reports of this incident are borne out, this would represent another example of the type of operation which we cannot condone and which is contrary to the peaceful objectives of our dialogue," a State Department spokesman said in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile tank-led troops from an Israeli-backed militia advanced north of a self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon today following an attack by Palestinian and leftist guerrillas, security sources said.

Manning

The sources said a joint guerrilla group from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and the National Resistance Front fired machine-guns and rockets at the Zmraya crossing point on the edge of the Israeli-established security zone.

Troops from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were manning the crossing nine miles (14 km) north of Israel and engaged in a 15-minute firefight with the guerrillas, the sources said.

One guerrilla was killed and another was reported missing, the sources said. There was no immediate information on SLA casualties.

More violence over The Satanic Verses

SRINAGAR, Feb 27, (UPI): Fresh outbreak of violence between Muslims in India over "The Satanic Verses" left one person dead and 30 others injured today.

Authorities in Pakistan said a bomb that killed a guard at British consulate in Karachi yesterday was linked to unrest over the novel, which is considered blasphemous by Muslims. It has sparked violence and demonstrations in several countries.

Indonesia announced yesterday it was joining India, Jordan and several other nations in Muslim populations in banning "The Satanic Verses," and Iranian legislators said they will vote tomorrow on severing ties with Britain, Syria and Brunei over the controversial novel.

The Iranian move appeared to be a reaction to London's refusal to isolate Iran, Britain was instrumental in getting the 12-member European Economic Community to pull diplomats from Tehran following a death issued by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini against Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie.

In Beirut, Lebanon, a told a Western news agency those holding nine American and six other foreign hostages linked their captives' lives to Rushdie's book by refusing to respond to efforts to free them.

In Tokyo, the government urged Japanese oil firms to cut off trade with Iran as a result of Rushdie's furor, industry said today.

Tokyo is worried it is under international criticism for its large Iranian oil imports.

Meanwhile Rushdie, sidestepping labelling himself with an apology in an attempt to defuse the protests, said a representative quoted in London today.

In London, a senior Penguin editor attending emergency meeting of Writers' Guild of Great Britain said hardback copies of the novel, were selling so well that a paperback edition, due out in April, might be delayed for commercial reasons.

De Silva dies
COLOMBO, Feb 27, Colvin R. de Silva, a four member of Sri Lanka's movement, died today at his family said.

De Silva had been hospitalized recently for an undisclosed illness.

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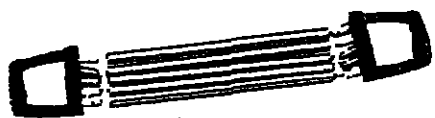
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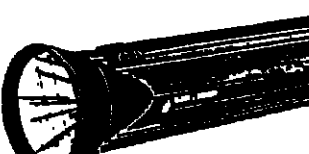
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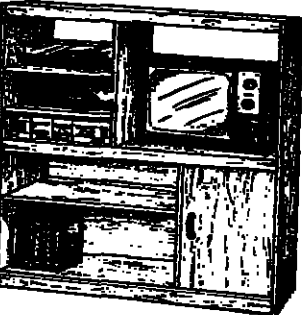
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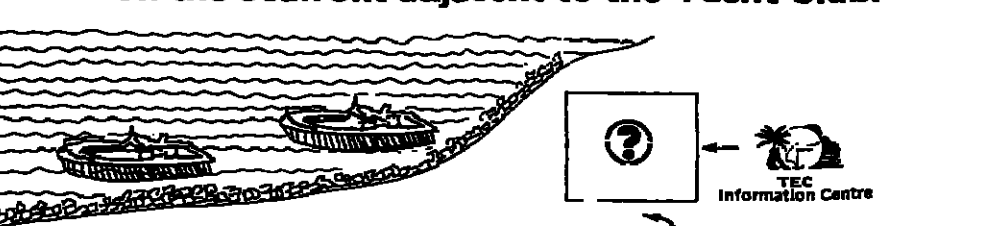
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Egypt and Israel sign Taba accord

TABA, Feb 27. (AP): Israel and Egypt signed a historic agreement last night that will turn this small corner of desert over to Egyptian sovereignty and end a seven-year border dispute.

Israeli and Egyptian negotiators joined American mediators in expressing hope that future disputes between Israel and its Arab neighbours could be solved through negotiations.

"A new chapter is starting and we sincerely hope it will lead to the road of a comprehensive peace," said Egypt's chief negotiator Nabil El Araby.

His Israeli counterpart, Foreign Ministry Director-General Reuven Merhav added, "It is a splendid example and a shining beacon of hope. We in Israel believe negotiations are the only possible path to peace."

American mediator Abraham Sofaer said: "Negotiations can be difficult but... negotiations can nevertheless work."

The agreement calls for Israel's withdrawal from the 250-acre resort area by March 15. The area includes a luxury hotel and a beach resort.

Malaysian rulers to elect king

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27. (AP): In the only election of its kind in the world, the nine state rulers of Malaysia go to the polls Wednesday to elect by secret ballot one of their number to be king for a five-year term.

Because the rulers follow an established practice in rotating the office among them, government officials, politicians and diplomats are predicting confidently that Sultan Azlan Shah, who is the present deputy king, will be elected the next king.

They also say the ruler of Negri Sembilan Sultan Tuanku Jaafar Abdul Rahman, 67, will likely be elected the deputy king.

The present king is Sultan Mahmood Iskandar of Johore state.

Sultan Azlan, 60, is the ruler of Perak state, the world's richest in mining area. He passed his law examinations in England before engaging in a long career in the legal service. He was lord president of the Supreme Court, the highest ranking judge in Malaysia, before ascending the Perak throne in February 1987.

The sources, said so far the rulers have never deviated from the practice of electing the deputy king as the next king.



Roh Tae-woo (left) makes a statement at the Blue House as Bush listens. (Reuters wirephoto)

Dissidents held as Bush visits Seoul

US troops to stay in S. Korea

SEOUL, Feb 27. (Reuters): A weary President Bush ended a gruelling three-day, five-day Asian trip today with a vow that US troops would remain on the divided peninsula "to deter aggression" from the communist North.

"As President, I am committed to maintaining American forces in Korea and to support our mutual defence treaty," Bush said in a public reaffirmation of Washington's four-decade-old commitment to South Korean security.

The United States keeps some 43,000 troops in the country. Leftist groups are demanding the immediate withdrawal of the soldiers in part of a growing anti-Americanism spreading through the Northeast Asian country.

"Our soldiers and airmen are there, to deter aggression from the North," he told the South Korean National Assembly in the first major foreign address of his young presidency.

In the speech, broadcast live on radio and television, Bush also lectured the South Koreans on the perils of protectionism — a sore point between the long-standing allies.

Arrest
Shortly after the President arrived in Seoul for a lightning five and one-half hour stopover, police outside the US embassy arrested 34 dissidents and students who fought running battles with riot police on a Seoul campus.

The crowd hurled firebombs, chanted anti-American slogans and burned effigies of the US leader and South Korean President Roh Tae-woo. Police responded with a deluge of tear gas. At least one policeman was injured in the two-hour clash.

Smaller similar demonstrations took place in at least five other South Korean cities.

Bush flew above the street troubles, using a helicopter to get from the airport to the South

Korean President's Blue House residence, then on to the National Assembly. A scheduled motorcade ride through Seoul was cancelled without explanation.

Protectionism
"Protectionism is fool's gold," a tired-looking Bush told the legislators in a speech boycotted by at least 10 members of the opposition.

"Let me be candid. I want you to hear this direct from me. If we are to keep our bilateral relationship growing even stronger, much more needs to be done, he said, waving his finger for emphasis.

"Protectionism may seem to be the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down," Bush lectured. Washington has repeatedly complained about what it regards as Seoul's overly restrictive trade policies.

The speech marked the last major event of a tiring Asian tour that was arranged around the

funeral last Friday of Japanese Emperor Hirohito. During his two-day stay in Tokyo, Bush met with various world leaders in a whirlwind round of funeral diplomacy.

After leaving Japan, Bush and his wife, Barbara, spent a nostalgic weekend in Beijing, where the President served as US envoy in 1974 and 1975.

During his quick stopover in Seoul, Bush also met South Korean opposition leaders, who expressed concern about the growing anti-Americanism on the peninsula.

Bush later left South Korea for home after a whirlwind five and one-half hour visit today.

Bush and Barbara, walked to their plane as a Korean brass band played the national anthem.

The departure ended a three-nation Asian trip which began in Japan last Thursday and included a weekend visit to China.

Army opens Beirut crossing

BEIRUT, Feb 27. (Reuters): Lebanese Army troops opened a seafloor route linking the two halves of central Beirut today, five years after it was shut by civil war violence.

Motorists ventured through the crossing point early in the morning after Army engineers — acting under an agreement between the country's rival Christian and Muslim governments — cleared it of land mines and the bushes which had grown since it last was used.

Local media hailed the opening of the port road as a step toward ending Lebanon's constitutional crisis.

Until now, Beirut residents wishing to move between the Christian and Muslim sides of the 10 km long Green Line had to use the museum crossing inland from the old city centre district.

The battlefront emerged at the start of the civil war in 1975 and its crossings have been at the mercy of rival militias. The port crossing was closed in 1984.

The Lebanese Forces (LF), a hardline Christian militia withdrew from a nearby dock at the official Beirut port last week.

Troops loyal to Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun, who heads a mainly Christian military government in East Beirut, battled the LF in Christian areas earlier in the month.

Childbirth kills 500,000 women in Third World

MANILA, Feb 27. (Reuters): About 500,000 women die in childbirth in poor countries every year, compared to 6,000 in developed nations, the World Health Organisation said today.

More than 99 per cent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries, where the risk of dying in childbirth is 100 to 200 times higher than in industrial nations, WHO's Manila regional headquarters said in a press statement.

The recently published 1988 World Health Statistics Annual showed a correlation between a high maternal mortality rate and high fertility, it said.

Most Third World maternal deaths can be prevented through family planning, prenatal and other health care costing only two dollars per capita a year, WHO said.

Explosion

AKRON, Feb 27. (AP): A train derailment caused an explosion and fire involving four tanker cars, forcing the evacuation of thousands of people from a residential and industrial area near downtown last night, authorities said.

No injuries were immediately reported.

Bush team 'tackles' shoe crisis

SEOUL, Feb 27. (AP): For a time Monday the most pressing question for some of the highest officials of the American government was: Which are my shoes?

The top US leadership had to leave its shoes at the door during lunch in the pleasant surroundings of the Ever Spring House on the grounds of the Blue House, the fortified residence of Korean presidents. That's Korean tradition.

No problem, but when lunch was over there they were, in a neat row, the nine pairs of nearly identical black slip-on shoes that clearly are favoured by the upper crust of the Bush team.

Belonged

Which were Secretary of State James Baker's and which were Chief of Staff John Sununu's? Which belonged to Brent Scowcroft?

With all the dignity they could command, they stood on the porch of the Ever Spring House, long-handled shoe-horns in hand, figuring out which shoes belonged to which feet. They did it, and were shod in time for the formal ceremony ending Bush's talk and lunch with President Roh Tae-woo.

Anyway, a Korean aide whisked Bush's shoes inside at the last minute, sparing the President the need to put them on in public.

If shoes were a problem, so were legs, at lunch.

Sitting on seats that lack legs. The President did not quite know where to put his feet that lacked shoes.

Sinhalese militants kill 20

Strike shuts Sri Lankan city

COLOMBO, Feb 27. (UPI): A strike ordered by leftist Sinhalese rebels today paralysed life in the north central city of Anuradhapura, said officials, who reported at least 20 new deaths in attacks by the extremists.

Police officials in Colombo said the slayings by members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, took place during the 24-hour period ending today, with most of them occurring in the group's strongholds in southern Sri Lanka.

The 20 fatalities boosted to at least 396 the number of people killed in political violence since Feb 16, the day after President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party (UNP) won an absolute majority in parliamentary polls, retaining its 11-year hold on power.

Most of the deaths have been blamed on the JVP, which is mainly comprised of students

and unemployed youths of the ethnic Buddhist Sinhalese majority, although a number of incidents have been attributed to rebels of the mostly Hindu Tamil minority.

Officials contacted by telephone in Anuradhapura, 195 km northeast of Colombo, said all shops and businesses closed in the morning and private cars and buses stayed off the streets in compliance with a strike ordered by the JVP.

Buses

An official at the central government offices in the city of 36,000 people said only half of the staff had reported for work and added that state-owned buses were being driven by soldiers because drivers had stayed off the job.

Two cars of an early morning train bound for Colombo derailed about eight km outside of Anuradhapura, and a spokesman for the government-run rail

way said JVP sabotage was believed responsible. There were no injuries reported.

The JVP circulated leaflets over the weekend calling for the strike to press its demand for the transfer of a senior police official, P. Udugampola, officials said.

Udugampola, a deputy inspector-general of police, was sent to Anuradhapura soon after Premadasa took office on Jan 2 from the JVP stronghold of Matara, in southern Sri Lanka, where he had waged a fierce fight against the group.

Udugampola was accused of numerous human rights violations while in Matara and eight members of his family, including his elderly mother, were massacred by the JVP. His transfer was apparently ordered by Premadasa as part of a package of concessions to the radicals aimed at bringing them into the political mainstream.

Takeshita admits Japanese aggression

TOKYO, Feb 27. (AP): In a reversal of his earlier remarks on Japan's role in World War II, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today said there was no denying that Japan was an aggressor in the conflict.

"It is regrettable that my unsatisfactory remark invited criticism" from other Asian countries, Takeshita said during a lower house budget committee session. Parliament took a recess of one week because of the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

Hirohito, who died last month of cancer, was buried on Friday.

Takeshita said Japan caused grave damage to neighbouring countries through the war and that "there is no denying our

country's aggressive actions during the war."

In a Feb 18 parliamentary committee session, Takeshita said the question of whether Japan was an aggressor in World War II would have to be decided by historians of the future.

His remark sparked sharp criticism from China and other countries, which suffered brutal invasions by Japan before and during the war.

Criticism

China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who attended the Emperor's funeral, urged the Japanese government to cease distorting Japan's militaristic past. Qian met on Friday with

both Takeshita and Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

Italian and Soviet newspapers, in commentaries, have also accused Takeshita of evading the issue of Japan's wartime aggression and failing to draw lessons from history.

The question of war responsibility is a touchy issue in Japan because of debate over the personal role of the late Emperor, who once was revered as divine. Many historians say the monarch was a figurehead, powerless against the military cabinet.

Two cabinet ministers were forced to step down in 1986 and 1988 after they said Japan's wartime actions were justifiable and did not constitute aggression.



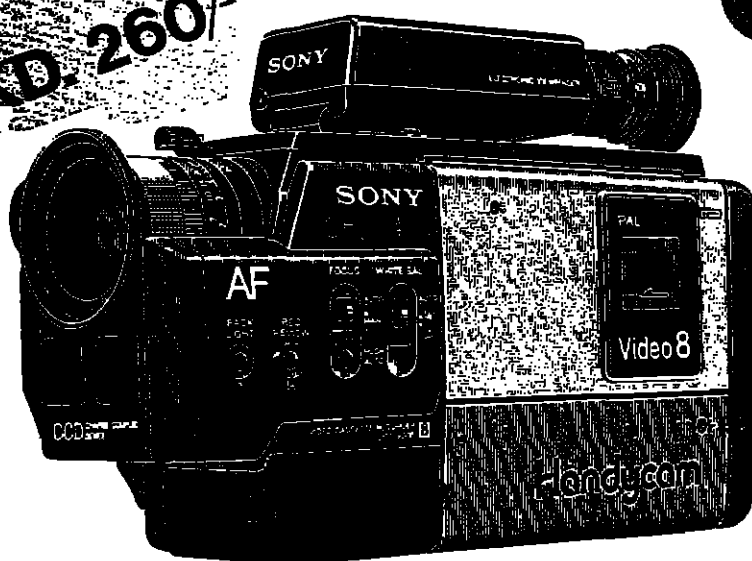
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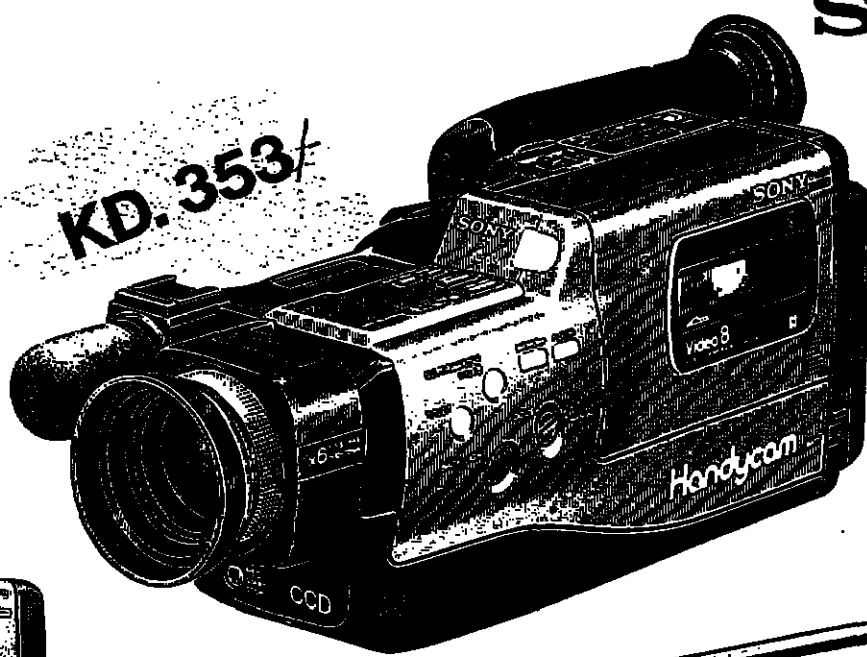


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Gulf tyres project shelved

THE proposed Gulf tyre project is to be shelved due to insufficient securities from Arab Gulf states, according to Dr Abdullah Al Mi'ejel, the Secretary-General of the Gulf Industrial Consultations Organisation.

The committee concluded that the project will not be profitable without getting adequate protection and support from the states of the area.

Concept

The organisation adopted the concept of establishing a Gulf company to produce tyres two years ago. The preliminary costs of the project were estimated at \$500 million.

The committee's contacts with the ministries of industry in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) received a poor response. Additionally, it also received adverse reactions from the international investment companies. The committee was obliged to co-operate with an international company to obtain necessary experience for the project on the basis of a 40 per cent capital participation, Mi'ejel said.

Five years for drug smuggling

TWO Turks were sentenced to five years in jail each, to be followed by deportation and both fined KD10,000 including KD5,000 custom duties, a local daily reported.

The defendants, one working as a bus driver and the second the bus owner were found guilty by Kuwait's Criminal Court on charges of attempting to smuggle 270,000 narcotic pills into the country.

The accused were apprehended by customs men of Abdali Border Centre.

Aziz in Bahrain on official talks

MANAMA, Feb 27, (KUNA): Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived here today on an official visit to Bahrain.

He will convey a message from President Saddam Hussein to the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Gulf News Agency said that the message deals with the establishment of Arab Co-operation Council which includes Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen.

Bahrain is heading the current ninth session of the Gulf Co-operation Council while Iraq will chair the first Arab Co-operation Council session.

Food imports

A TOTAL of 413,998 tons of foodstuff were imported by Kuwait last year, according to an official source at Kuwait Municipality.

From the above, 3,198 tons were found inedible, 1,712 tons were destroyed and 1,486 tons were returned to the country of origin.

The Chemical and Microbiology Laboratory tested 21,926 imported samples of which 357 were found defective. The laboratories also tested 5,159 local samples of which 80 were inedible.

Foodstuff inspectors at the Municipality confiscated about 7,374 tons of foodstuff from a local market, the source said.

Brainstorming session

A PRESS release from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training said that the College of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing was to hold a "Brainstorming" session with Dr Betty Neuman.

Neuman is currently in Kuwait serving as a consultant to various nursing groups. She is an internationally known nursing theorist, educator and author.

The Neuman system's model is the framework for the new curriculum which the Department of Nursing will initiate in the fall 1989/1990 semester.

15 new schools in 1989-90

SAUDI Al Zayed, Director of the Construction Department at the Ministry of Education, said that the ministry will receive 15 new schools from the 21 schools being constructed during the 1989/1990 academic year.

These comprise six kindergartens, four primary, one intermediate and four secondary schools.

The ministry has air-conditioned restaurants, waiting halls and libraries in 494 schools and kindergartens. A total of 28 schools are being air-conditioned and 27 others will be similarly equipped this year, Zayed said.



The eight-man team which will take part in the run.

Cross-border run to save wildlife

By Lima Al Khalafawi

AN eight-member team of athletes from the Messilah Beach Hotel Recreation Club will run across Kuwait from the Iraqi border to the Saudi border on Friday, March 3, 1989. The run, sponsored in part by the Arab Times, will link the borders of Kuwait along a 246 kilometre route. Proceeds raised from the event will go towards the preservation of wildlife.

Ray Jerny, manager of the Recreation Club and organiser of the run, will be running himself along with seven other athletes who have been training long and hard for the event.

The first stage of the run, scheduled to begin at midnight on Friday, will take about 16

hours. The participants will run relays of three kilometres, rotating turns running and riding along on a bus.

The runners will arrive at Messilah Beach Hotel at around 12 noon on Saturday, where they will be met by spectators for a ten-minute break, before continuing on to the Saudi border another seven hours' run away.

This event marks the first time a team has attempted to run the entire length of the country. The route follows main roads along the coast and for safety reasons, the runners will be wearing fluorescent arm bands.

Organisers hope the run, originally planned for National Day weekend but postponed due to traffic, will be a success. If it is, they say, it might be held every year.

Thousands aspire to obtain a US immigration visa

By Hamid Siddiqui

TENS of thousands of Asian expatriates, mainly Indians, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis, are busy completing their applications for eventually obtaining a US immigration visa, as the date for mailing them draws close.

The US State Department earlier this month announced a new immigration visa programme which will allow 20,000 more persons from so-called "underrepresented countries" to immigrate to the United States over the next two years.

Random selection. These slots will be randomly selected from those who apply for the programme during the period of March 1 to March 31, 1989.

Those randomly picked applicants will be invited to file a formal immigration visa application, and the first 20,000 found to be qualified under US law will receive an immigration visa.

Kuwaiti girls win medals at art exhibition in Turkey

TWO Kuwaiti girls have been awarded silver and bronze medals at an International Children Art Exhibition held in Turkey to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the famous Turkish architect Sinan.

In the international children art exhibition held in Ankara on this occasion 1600 children paintings from 43 different countries were exhibited. The jury which evaluated these paintings awarded 5 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals and 10 certificates for the most successful work in each age group, namely, 5-8, 9-13, 14-17.

In the contest the following Kuwaiti children have been awarded medals: Hababa Ali Nasser Al Sabah (age 6), from Sakina Public School for girls (bronze medal); Intesar Al Safar (age 14) from Soubhahra Secondary School for girls (silver medal).

Sinan's works symbolise the climax of the Ottoman classical construction period totalling to 472 including several mosques, caravan serais, bridges and public baths throughout the empire. Two of the most widely known works of Sinan are Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul and Selimiye Mosque in Edirne. Sinan whose full name is Sinan Ibn Abdul-Mennam, served during the rule of three sultans from 1538 until his death in 1588 as the chief court architect of the Ottoman Empire.

Agricultural union discusses allocation of loans to farmers

THE Agricultural Co-operative Societies Union of Kuwait recently hosted a meeting to discuss allocation of KD50 million in agricultural loans, according to a local daily. The meeting was attended by Abdurahman Al Zubaidi and Abdulmonem Al Sabah from the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (IBK), and the Union's Board of Directors.

In the meeting Barrak Al Noun, Chairman of the ACSU, praised the government's decision to allocate a portfolio of KD50 million to be administered by the IBK, hinting that such a measure embodied the government's concern towards developing the agricultural sector. He added that Kuwait's livestock and poultry products were covering 40 per cent of the country's demand.

Distribution. Noun called for the granting of loans to sheep farmers at the Kabad project in order to enable them to purchase the necessary stock and required fodder. He expressed the Union's readiness to play a role in the distribution

of loans applications and the preparation of lending files.

Noun also called for the granting of agricultural loans to some non-profit organisations, suggesting that this would reflect positively on the national economy in general and the economic sector in particular.

Activities

Meanwhile, Zubaidi said that the IBK will be ready to receive loan applications as soon as the necessary rules are set up governing lending policy. He said that a brochure clarifying lending procedures will be issued soon.

Zubaidi added that the loans to be given had been designed to cover all agricultural activities, including the modernisation of current projects. The loans will be both mid- and long-term, and will be at the interest rate of 2.5 per cent.

He also said that projects of KD100,000 will be entitled to a loan covering 65 per cent of project costs, while projects costing more than this will be entitled to 50 per cent of their cost.



Dr Ali Al Shamlan (second right) and other dignitaries after the official opening.

Islamic astronomers and scholars attempt to unify lunar calendars

By Jadranka Porter

A HUNDRED Arab astronomers and religious scholars gathered in Kuwait yesterday at the beginning of a three-day seminar, in an attempt to set a unified procedure to determine the beginning of each month in the lunar calendar.

Procedure

Entitled, "Crescent Images and Astronomical Techniques," the seminar will discuss the lunar calendar from both the religious and scientific point of view and will use computers in the calculations, said the chairman of the organising committee Abbas Alkhan. Scientists and religious scholars are divided on the issue of methods, he said.

The beginning of each lunar month can be precisely determined through the use of scientific calculations. But many religious scholars reject scientific methods and rely on the sighting of the moon, which is only possible in good weather conditions. This is why some Islamic countries wait for the announcement of a new lunar month from a neighbouring state or begin religious holidays on different days. The scientists were called in to help Islamic scholars make a unified decision.

Alkhan said he hoped the scientists and religious scholars would find a common language and agree on a common procedure to be followed by the entire Islamic world.

Twenty-seven papers have been prepared for the seminar,

out of which 12 will be presented and 15 will be distributed.

The seminar, organised jointly by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the science club under the patronage of HH the Amir, was opened by the Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan. Shamlan praised the scholars' efforts to unify the reading of the lunar calendar.

Common procedure is of particular importance in observing religious rituals such as fasting and the haj, which are now strictly linked to the sighting of the moon. This means that Muslims begin fasting on different days depending upon when the moon has been sighted in their country. Shamlan said that such differences are at odds with the spirit of unity in Islam.

Basra to be the centrepiece of a new international industrial zone

BASRA, Feb 27, (AP): A new metropolis is emerging from the rubble of Basra, Iraq's second largest city, after years of battering during the Gulf war.

"It's going to be the best city in Iraq," said Simon, a bank manager, who like most Iraqis declined to give his family name. "Everything's going to be new."

The evidence of ferocious Iranian missile and artillery bombardments is everywhere: shrapnel-scarred buildings, groves of decapitated palm trees, abandoned tanks and sunken ships in the Shatt Al Arab waterway that meanders through the city of the Gulf.

But the market is booming, and the two daily flights from Baghdad to Basra's newly reopened airport are packed with businessmen, including construction engineers lobbying officials for contracts.

On the Shatt Al Arab's muddy banks, the Sheraton Hotel — peppered by shell hits and deserted for the last two years — reopened for business earlier this month.

President Saddam Hussein's government has pledged \$5 billion to repair the war damage and make Basra the centrepiece of a new international industrial zone.

On a recent visit, he criticised the slow pace of rebuilding in a city that symbolised Iraq's defence against six years of Iranian offensives.

"The people of Basra deserve their city to be beautiful and more organised," he said.

Basra, founded 1,400 years ago and known as the "Venice of the East" because of its network of canals, was Iraq's main port with a pre-war population of 1.5 million.

Barely 15 miles (25 kilometres) from the Iranian border, Ayatollah Khomeini's forces battled to within six miles (10 kilometres) of Basra's eastern outskirts in early 1987, putting it within easy artillery range.

Construction. Ninety per cent of the buildings were destroyed or damaged. Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded. Thousands more fled.

The port is still blocked because of a dispute over control of the Shatt Al Arab that is a key strand in the knot tying up the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

The first major construction project nearby is 23 new piers for what were minor ports at Umm Qasr and Khour Al Zubair before the war.

The main work in Basra since a ceasefire ended the eight-year war last Aug 20 has been clearing the wreckage.

Arfan, one of the engineers looking for contracts in Basra, noted, "Right now they're just cleaning up, but by the end of the year, there will be lots of work in Basra."

Heavy trucks, graders and cranes — many of them from the military — growl through downtown. Hundreds of new apartment buildings, ringed by fields of mud, have gone up.

Many were occupied even

before they were completed, with residents using corrugated iron sheets to cover the empty windows.

In the market, merchants say they can't keep up with consumer demand, even though prices have gone up by as much as 25 per cent.

"We're selling more and more," said Mohammed Aslan Mohsen, who runs an appliance store.

As the Sheraton, Belgian manager William Meure said it took two days of cleaning the rugs before the colours started to emerge from the dust.

The sign above the entrance hangs askew, and the acne of artillery hits across the front of the building is still visible under cement patches. Meure said 130 out of the 210 rooms have been reopened.

Visitors from Baghdad and Kuwait come for the weekend. Many want rooms looking out over three sunken freighters in the Shatt Al Arab, the estuary of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that runs into the Gulf. At least 70 ships are stranded there.

"They're coming back slowly; it's not like before," said Sheraton bartender Khamis, who estimated he caters for 50 people every weekend night.

"They come to enjoy themselves." Down the road from the Sheraton, a new nightclub has opened. In the neighbourhood behind it, residents said virtually everyone who fled the shelling is back.

Kuwait's artificial limbs centre now handles all referred cases

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (KUNA): Kuwait's artificial limbs centre set up in 1956 is more advanced than many similar facilities in Europe, according to Mohammed Al Enizi, the centre's director.

Initially, it made a humble start with a team of four whose main work was to take sizes of required prostheses which were then ordered from abroad.

More than 30 years later, the centre prides itself in the fact that it now handles all cases referred

to it and is also receiving cases from outside Kuwait.

The centre operates with a budget of about \$1.8 million and can provide artificial feet, arms, medical belts and shoes.

The centre extends services to the handicapped against symbolic payments. Nationals and expatriates who have spent more than five years in Kuwait are however offered free services — including periodic maintenance.

Out of the centre's 54 working staff, more than 40 per cent of administrators and 45 per cent of

technicians are Kuwaiti nationals.

Twenty per cent of prostheses recipients are transferred to the centre from abroad upon recommendations from Kuwait's Foreign Ministry. Iraqi civilians have already arrived at the centre to receive needed services.

The centre, Enizi added is in continuous contact with similar institutions in Saudi Arabia, West Germany, South-East Asia, UK, US, Sweden and other countries.

Foot and mouth disease in cattle controlled: Sultan

FOOT and mouth disease that recently afflicted cattle and sheep in Kuwait has been controlled and the situation stabilised, according to Dr Sultan Ahmad Sultan, director of Veterinary Department at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources.

In an interview with a local daily, the official denied that local casualties were recorded among these animals.

Foot and mouth disease is one of the epidemics not easily controlled as there are several types of viral strains.

Sultan added that the depart-

ment had prolonged the veterinary quarantine period for cows particularly for those who were not subject to the immunity system at the countries of origin such as Australia and USA.

Among the problems the authority faced was the immune disparity among cattle, the official said.

The department is planning to organise several enhanced training courses for its veterinarians. These courses, scheduled to begin in March, will be organised in co-operation with one of UK's prestigious universities, the official said.

UK minehunters set sail for home

DUBAI, Feb 27, (Reuters): Three British minehunters set sail for home from the Gulf today after clearing mines from the sea lanes opposite the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a British Navy spokesman said.

The three ships, which left on schedule, had been in the area for 18 months as the major part of an international operation to clear mines sown during the Iran-Iraq war.

Minehunters from several European Navies, most of which have now gone, had been clearing the southern part of the Gulf. The US Navy is still searching Gulf waters north of Bahrain.

Thailand launches campaign to attract more Gulf tourists

THE number of visitors to Thailand from the Gulf in particular and the Middle East in general has increased substantially over the last few months in view of Thai government's recent campaign to attract more tourists from the region.

For a long time now Thailand has been a popular tourist centre for all kinds of people around the world. Tourism is the country's major industry and the leading foreign exchange earner, drawing on average over three million tourists annually over the last five years.

Lucrative

The Middle East has, in recent times, become a lucrative market for Thai tourism. Thailand initially came into the limelight for Arab travellers in the early Seventies during the oil boom. Since then Arab interest in this country has been increasingly strong. In 1988 92,940 people visited Thailand from the Middle East, including the Gulf, showing an increase of 5.69 per cent over the corresponding year. Middle Eastern visitors represented the fourth largest among visitors from around the world in 1988, after the US, Canada and Europe.

Eight months ago the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) opened a regional office in Bahrain in association with a leading local advertising company and launched a campaign to attract more Gulf travellers to Thailand.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Hadi Al Alawi said the campaign is aimed at attracting more families from the Gulf to visit Thailand. Although Thailand has traditionally been popular for the "beach holiday" it has a tremendous potential for the "family visitors" — offering an abundance of natural beauty, culture, sports and leisure amenities and exquisite range of local products, he added.

Challenge

He described efforts to promote Thailand among Gulf travellers as a major challenge particularly in view of the "family concept".

Plans are underway to highlight Thailand's growing reputation for its excellent health farms in order to attract potential Arab visitors to the country on health-cum-holiday visits.

In order to generate interest among Gulf travellers to visit Thailand, a number of low cost attractive package tours is being designed. In association with TAT regional office in Bahrain leading travel agents and tour operators are offering incentives which include exclusive deals at a low price for families in particular.

Satisfaction

Meanwhile, a TAT delegation is currently in the island in connection with the just concluded Bahrain Fair '89, where Thailand was represented by a stall selling a wide range of beautiful handicrafts. The delegation expressed satisfaction of the response of visitors for Thai products. Sales of Thai handicrafts and other exquisite items has been reported to be very good. The TAT stall, the biggest of the fair, attracted a considerable number of visitors from both Bahrain and other Gulf states.

1989 has been designated by the Thai government as the "Year of Arts and Crafts" in Thailand. A major silk fashion show is scheduled for March in Bangkok and expected to draw a sizeable number of Arab and Gulf visitors.

Bombay police arrest employment documents forger

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (KUNA): Bombay police have arrested an illegal employment agent, Babar alias "Mohammed Ali Abdul Qadar, who was supplying forged documents to Indian labourers seeking employment in the Gulf states.

After receiving several complaints from people who had fallen prey to the cheat, immigration officers at Sahar Airport kept a vigil at the airport today and checked out 84 passengers waiting to travel to the Gulf and discovered that 18 of them had bogus passport clearance.

While documents of 15 people had the forged clearance of the processor of emigration, the stamp of the passport office had been made use of for three others.

Qadar was immediately arrested and a raid on his residence revealed materials used in printing the forged documents including a few printing blocks.

Arab Engineers Union remains united despite crises: official

THE Chairman of Arab Engineers Union, Marwan Abdul Hameed, said that the 18th conference of the union held in Kuwait recently was an occasion to evaluate and reconsider Arab engineering.

The Arab nation has suffered from serious crises such as civil wars, external wars and political disputes among Arab states after the 17th conference of the union that was held in Amman, the official said.

He added, despite these disputes the union succeeded in preserving its unity and national character. The union did not suspend its activities and projects during this period. He added that the most important professional event was the completion of a dictionary of scientific terms. Kuwait Engineers Society has a main role in financing and printing the dictionary.

Integration

Hameed stressed the importance of achieving engineering integration among Arab states. He added that a seminar organised by the Arab League in Tunis in 1981 showed that Arab countries spent about \$22 billion on consultative studies. Only 5 per cent of this amount went to Arab consultative offices. The danger is not only the spending of these big amounts on studies that are

made by foreign offices, but also because designs made by foreign offices meet needs of the foreign designer and not Arab specifications or styles, he said.

Benefit

Hameed pointed out that there are 500,000 Arab engineers including agricultural engineers.

There are more than 5,000 Palestinian engineers working in USA and large numbers of Arab engineers working in foreign countries but Arab states do not benefit from their abilities and experience, he said. The return of these engineers to Arab states needs political decisions and requires democracy and freedom in the Arab world.

Fund

The Arab Engineers Union took a decision to make every Arab engineer support a Palestinian engineer in the occupied territories by paying ten dollars a year through a fund established for this purpose.

The fund is supervised by the Arab Engineers Union, Palestinian Engineers Union and Jordanian Engineers Union. He called on all Arab engineers to respond to the decision of the union in order to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Kuwait's Home for the Aged provides social and medical care

KUWAIT, Feb 27, (KUNA): The Home for the Aged was established in 1955 to provide the elderly with care and medical attention.

Individuals over sixty years of age without families or those with families who cannot provide care are eligible to enter the home. Individuals suffering from contagious diseases however are not eligible.

Prior to being accepted in the home a technical committee studies each case based on social or health conditions.

All new entrants are made to feel as comfortable as possible to adapt to the new surroundings.

The staff maintain links between the elderly person and his family by inviting them on visits and by asking friends to call.

Hospitals usually send some cases to the home — particularly those suffering from senility or paralysis.

The Home for the Aged exerts every effort to return the elderly to their families. Out of a total of 106 residents, 53 have already returned to their homes.

The home follows up on the progress made and provides health and social care. The home's Physiotherapy Department tries to deal with age related diseases.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Saliya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

MUSIC

Red Army Choir
MARCH 4/5: The Red Army Choir and dance ensemble will perform at the Andalus Cinema, presenting music, dance and ballet with a selection of folk dances, Cossack and Armenian; plus choral singing. Tickets available at the Andalus Box-Office.

EXHIBITION

Modern Kuwait
UNTIL March 8: a photography exhibition of "modern Kuwait" will be open from 8 am to 12 noon at the College of Commerce, Adeliya. Video films to be shown during the exhibition are as follows: Feb 28 (9 am and 11 am): Computers in Kuwait. The documentaries will be shown at the Arts and Culture Department, College of Commerce.

SOCIAL

KAPILKU Night
MARCH 3: The KAPILKU Night at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club, from 5 to 10 pm. A sing-alike contest and a singing competition will be held. Entrance — KD2. For details call Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4843447.

Daniella Rally
MARCH 3 (Friday): Daniella, the Danish association in Kuwait, will hold the annual family car rally. For details call Karen-Marie — Tel: 3715146.

Gala Dinner
MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4331339; 5399151.

SPORTS

Kuwait Run
MARCH 3, (Friday): A team of eight runners will run from Abdali, the Iraqi border to Nuwaiseeb, the Saudi border. The 246 km run has been sponsored by the Messilah Beach Hotel and Arab Times. Come along and support the team. They will reach the Seif Palace at approximately 9 am and below the coast road to arrive at 11 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel; Fahaeel along the Expressway at 1 am and then go on to Nuwaiseeb.

Mini Rugby
MARCH 3: Training game reconvenes on Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-Rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree — 5326368 or Geoff Bennett — 5332683.

Cricket Match with Veterans
MARCH 5: The Gulf Cricket League will hold a full-day cricket match for veterans at the EPL, Ardiya. Cricketers who played between 1950 and 1970 are eligible to participate. For registration and details call Sajid Raza 392-8493.

Raft Race
THE third Kuwait Annual Raft Race will be held on May 26. Mens/ladies/mixed and carnival events. This year's rules and regulations are available from the Messilah Beach Hotel. The first captains' meeting will be held at the hotel on March 7 (6.30 pm).

KES: a decade in education

THE Kuwait English School (KES), Salwa, recently staged a spectacular show entitled "Ten Years On" to mark the first decade of its existence.

More than 200 students and staff took part in the show combining Western and Middle Eastern music. It was directed by the school's head of music and drama, Oliver Lister.

The KES' Junior and Senior Arab Choirs, directed by Richard Irzenski, provided the Middle Eastern element which also featured Kuwaiti and Palestinian dancing.

The Assistant Under-secretary for Private Education Dr Yacoub Al Sharrar and Dr Rasha Al Sabah of Kuwait University attended the show.



Children rehearsing for the violin concert.

Children prepare for violin concert

THIRTY children are now polishing their musical skills to present a violin concert next week.

The children, aged four and above, belong to the music section at the Kuwait Cultural Centre (KCC) which introduced violin lessons for the young based on the Japanese Suzuki method.

The followers of the Suzuki method believe that children can learn and grasp musical skills from a very early age and that studying music is as easy as learning a language.

KCC Director Salome Al Sabah said: "We believe that learning music by ear enables the young to develop co-ordination and concentration from a very early age."

Mrs Al Sabah feels that music should become a part of regular education of any child.

The children, who are being coached by Yugoslav teacher Dragan Marcovic, will present a varied selection of music ranging from folk songs to excerpts from Bach, Handel, Brahms and Martini.

The concert will be held on March 9, at 5 pm at the Universal American School auditorium. Tickets cost KDI.500. For reservations contact 5624393.



KES students performing a Palestinian dance.



Lufthansa German Airlines, Kuwait, recently held an inflight service presentation in the Gulf region at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. The presentation was made by Gernot Huebel, regional manager, Gulf and Pakistan, and Peter Fellingner, representative Kuwait and area passenger sales manager. The latest developments in this field were updated. Above: Lufthansa officials seen at the presentation.



Kuwaiti officials pictured with school staff during the prize distribution ceremony.

Prize distribution at Indian School

THE Indian School recently staged a variety show to mark the Kuwait National Day and the holding of their annual prize distribution ceremony.

The winners of annual concerts in 1988 received their prizes from the Director of the Private Education Department, Abdullah Hamad Nasser Al Muhanna and the head of the administration division Sulaiman Ahmed Al Ridwan.

The Indian School, Abbasiya branch, won the Rolling Trophy Balaceia. Merit certificates and trophies were presented to individual winners of different branches.

The students put on a variety show featuring dances from Kerala, Punjab and Gujarat. School director J.A.S. Newton welcomed the guests and Mrs K. Daniel proposed a vote of thanks.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Tum Tek and Children
5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial starring Majed Afount, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown
7.00 News Summary
7.15 Agricultural Magazine
7.50 Li Kulli Sawal wa Jawaab: All Questions and Answers. Local talk show.
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Baharat Al Marra: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Abideen, Ahmad Maher, Muna Jabar, Fatima Tabae, Mohammad Rida and Anwar Ismael.
10.50 Minal Alf Ila Alaya: variety show featuring Mahmood Yaseen. Part One. Hosted by Tareq Habib.
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via



William Conrad stars in Jake and the Fatman, tonight on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm.

Satellite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Noveltoons: cartoon serial
6.30 Break Point: part 4 of series for young viewers.
7.00 A Finite World: "Mexico".
8.00 News in English
8.40 A Year in the Life: a family show starring:

Richard Kiley.
9.40 The Hit Squad: "Catch it before it catches you" is the theme of this practical jokes series.
10.10 Bustin' Loose: "The Kindest Cut". Sunny and Rudy try to get rid of a guest Mimi brings home.
10.30 Jake and the Fatman: "Rhapsody in Blues". Starring: William Conrad and Joe Penny.
11.30 News Summary followed by Magazine D'Actualite' Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Shaab Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem St.
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Souk Al Kuwait Bldg., Souk Duaij
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hadiha Pharmacy
Othman Complex, Ibn Khaldoun St.
Salimiya and Rumaithiya
Al Markiziya Pharmacy
Asfour Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.
Fahaeel and Ahmadi
Al Fulaj Pharmacy
Nr. Safeway, Makkah St., Fahaeel
New Khaitas
Al Tasamah Pharmacy
Bin Seereen St.
Riqqa
Al Riqqa Pharmacy
Bldg. 12, Riqqa
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Gharam Al Afay (Arabic)
Starring: Laila Alwi, Sabirin, Salah Qabil, Hisham Abdul Hamid

Al Salmiya
Closed

Al Hamra
Cherry 2000
Starring: Melanie Griffith, David Andrews

Drive-In
Mo'orakah Al Nakib
Nadiya (Arabic)
Starring: Suhair Sabri, Karam Mutawa

Al Firdous
Shoorveer (Hindi)
Starring: Rajan Sippy, Mandakani
Fahaeel Open-Air
Khuda Kasam (Hindi)

Al Fahaeel
Street Dance
Al Jahra
Abojmon (Bengali)
Granada
Orkapurathu (Malayalam)
Salaikhat
Suspect
Al Jleeb
Bahadur Meye (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Bint Min Dahab (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.55am
Zuhr	12.00
Asr	3.19 pm
Maghreb	5.48
Isha	7.04

MINOLTA CAMERA CLINIC & DEMONSTRATION



Date: March 1-3, 1989
Time: Mar 1 & 3 4-8 pm
Mar 2, 9 am - 12.30 pm & 4-8 pm



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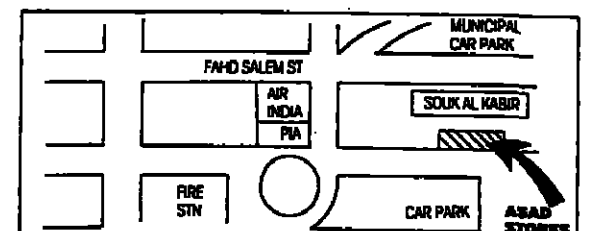
Have your Minolta camera, lens, or any Minolta photographic equipment checked by the latest diagnostic testers and equipment. Absolutely Free.

MINOLTA'S CAMERA CLINIC

This will be conducted under the personal supervision of Mr T. Matsuda, Chief Technical Advisor of Minolta, Japan. Mr Matsuda is on this special Kuwait tour to conduct the clinic as well as to answer queries from current and potential users of all Minolta photographic equipment.

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ASAD STORES

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The Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, last week held a cultural show to mark the Martyr's Day (Shaheed Dibosh). Students of Bangladesh School and local artists took part in the show. Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin was the chief guest. Above: some of the artists singing a patriotic song.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A CHEERFUL friend is like a sunny day, spreading brightness all around — Sir John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

Rajiv likely to produce a vote-winning budget

By Malcolm Davidson

NEW DELHI. (Reuters): It's election year in India and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi looks like brushing aside growing unease over the economy to produce a vote-winning budget.

Rajiv dropped broad hints this week that Finance Minister S.B. Chavan will announce a clutch of measures aimed at wooing farmers and the poor when he presents his budget today for the fiscal year beginning April 1.

About 70 per cent of India's 800 million people live in the villages and these are the voters that Rajiv must win over if he is to retain power in elections due by the end of December.

He faces a strong challenge from a string of electoral reverses for Rajiv's Congress (I) Party state polls.

But hanging over the country are large and growing budget and balance of payments deficits, which economists, business leaders and even government figures say are worrying.

Linked "My view is that the budget will be closely linked to the election and for that reason we are not going to see any of the hard-nosed decisions that we think should be taken," said a Western diplomat who tracks the economy.

Economist V. Srinam of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry agreed, saying: "No government that is in power would like to lose an election and they will want to do things that will keep them in power."

He and other business leaders have urged the government to cut taxes and excise duties and further loosen controls on industry. But they fear they will be made to foot the bill for welfare programmes through higher direct or indirect taxes.

"One thing is very clear," said P. Panandiker, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "There will be some goodies for the common man, something for the farmers and something for the urban middle class because that is a growing

vote bank. "If goodies are to be given to these people, then some increases in tax will be necessary. They may also try to cut expenditure, perhaps defence."

Since coming to power in 1984, Rajiv's government has eased bureaucratic controls and delays and lifted controls on the import of goods needed to modernise Indian industry.

A drought in 1987 badly jolted the country but the economy rebounded strongly after a good monsoon last year.

Food output has boomed. Foodgrain production is forecast to hit a record 170 million tonnes this year compared with 138 million in 1987/88.

The government estimates that gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services excluding foreign trade, will grow around nine per cent in the fiscal year ending March 31, up from an estimated 3.6 per cent in 1987-88.

The deficits remain the biggest problem. The diplomatic analyst said he expected the government would overshoot its budget deficit of Rs 74.84 billion (\$4.9 billion) by up to 15 per cent this year and would try to peg the 1989-90 shortfall at about the same level.

Exports The government has trumpeted its success in boosting exports by 24 per cent so far this year in rupee terms. But because of a steadily depreciating rupee, exports in terms of the dollar have grown by only about 11 per cent and imports 13 per cent.

To close the widening trade deficit, exports should have grown by about 18 per cent in dollars. Instead India is resorting to higher commercial borrowings.

"I do think that they have to start being careful with commercial borrowings," a senior international economist said. "They are nowhere near any real problems but these things can snowball very quickly."

The percentage of India's export earnings that go to pay off its external debt has been steadily rising and is now about 27 per cent, he said.

Opinion at home may force Israel to talk to PLO

By Sharon Waxman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (Reuters): Public opinion at home rather than persistent pressure from friends and foes abroad may finally force Israel to talk to a reformed Palestine Liberation Organisation, political analysts say.

"Israel is under a lot of pressure. The precise breaking point is difficult to imagine," said Mark Heller, of the Justice Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

"I think the pretext will be Israeli public opinion. The important Israeli decision-makers will come to the decision that the PLO is no longer the PLO," he said.

Opinion polls show a majority of Israelis support talking to the PLO, even though most of them do not trust the organisation and oppose a Palestinian state.

On a visit to France, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir repeated a long-standing vow on Thursday never to talk to Yasser Arafat's PLO, banned in Israel as a terrorist organisation bent on destroying the Jewish state.

Useless Shamir's insistence that talks with Arafat would be useless coincided with intense diplomatic activity on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens separately met the Soviet Union's Eduard Shevardnadze and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

Shevardnadze, offering to renew ties broken almost 22 years ago, pressed Arafat to join an international peace conference with the PLO. Mubarak told Arens peace was impossible without the organisation's involvement.

In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand told Shamir he had made no decision on whether to meet Arafat. Such a meeting would be a diplomatic coup for the Palestinian chief.

Israel's latest rejection of the PLO followed an unprecedented videotaped appeal, screened in occupied Jerusalem, from senior Arafat deputy Abu Iyad for Israeli-PLO talks. A Jerusalem Post commentator hailed the

video as a breakthrough.

Dovish Israelis have been meeting pro-PLO leaders in occupied Jerusalem and Israeli journalists met Arafat at a Cairo news conference.

"Israel will try to make tentative, insubstantial concessions which will not be enough to relieve the pressure, so it will have to keep trying a little more until at some time positions converge. The logic of things suggests they converge at the PLO," said Heller.

Shamir has promised to unveil new peace proposals when he visits Washington in early April. The analysts say Israel's closest ally would probably not pressure Shamir openly to talk to the PLO.

But they said Israel's human rights record in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and dwindling support in Congress would prompt President Bush to press privately for concessions.

Yehzekel Dror, political science professor at Hebrew University, said Israel would be able to resist the pressure.

He said the United States would not push Israel too far. Europe had little clout, and the Soviet Union could only tighten the screws on the basis of its offer of full diplomatic ties.

"There is pressure on the decision-makers but people like Shamir have passed more serious situations," he said, citing a French arms embargo in the late 1960s and US opposition to Israel under President Eisenhower in the 1956 Suez war.

"The shift is not so forceful that Israel has to make an immediate response," he said.

But other Israeli academics said they believed more Israelis would press the government to talk to the PLO once assured that Palestinians would be satisfied with a state confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They said Israelis wanted assurances that such a state would not be the first step in a takeover of Israel.

The PLO parliament-in-exile declared a state in November but did not define its borders. Arafat later recognised Israel's existence and renounced terrorism.

Individual performance counts

Game of buzkashi echoes Afghan political chaos

By Bernd Debusmann

KHORRASAN CAMP, Pakistan. (Reuters): Whips clench between their teeth. 70 horsemen struggled around a headless dead goat. In the mayhem, horses reared and shoved, kicking up clouds of dust.

Riders in the centre of the melee leaned down to try to grab the carcass. Yells rose as one rider snatched it up and tried to break loose — only to have another snatch the goat from him.

The heaving mass of riders and mounts broke up after 10 minutes and one man, holding the goat by a leg, took off in full gallop towards the far end of the field, pursued by a thundering horde.

"Watch this closely," said an Afghan spectator at Khorrasan Camp, home to some of the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. "It can help you understand our country."

Buzkashi, Afghanistan's national sport, blends elements of polo and rugby into one of the world's wildest games. It has few rules and requires skill, daring and physical strength.

Performance Though there are teams, what counts is individual performance and not teamwork. Literally translated as "goat-dragging," buzkashi is now often played with dead calves which are said to be less prone to being ripped to pieces.

At a recent game staged in this camp in northern Pakistan to mark the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, foreign guests noted more than a passing resemblance between buzkashi and Afghan politics.

The objective was to pick up the carcass from the starting circle, carry it round a flag at the far end of an enormous dusty square, and drop it in one of two scoring circles assigned to the

competing teams. Teams score one point for carrying the goat round the marker, two for dropping it into the scoring circle. But since a man's reputation is boosted by his scores, it is not uncommon for a player to snatch the carcass from a member of his own team.

Rivalries Attempts by Afghan rebel groups to form an alternative to President Najibullah's government have been complicated by problems that echo the buzkashi field — while the groups feud with each other, there are internal rivalries as well.

American anthropologist Whitney Azoy wrote that buzkashi reflected Afghan society's tendency for "chaotic and unbridled and uncontrollable competition."

Diplomats monitoring Afghanistan say they fear unbridled competition among political leaders will prolong Afghanistan's agony after the nine-year

war in which at least a million people were killed.

At Khorrasan, old buzkashi hands explained the game was a tame version of an ancient horsemanship contest played on the steppes of northern Afghanistan.

Players That version, known as tudabari buzkashi, can feature more than 1,000 players, has no fixed playing field, no teams, and no limit on the number of contestants.

The aim is to lift the carcass from the ground or wrench it from someone else, carry it clear in whatever direction, and drop it.

Played over huge open spaces, tudabari buzkashi has no scoring circles, no marker flags, and no rules other than a ban on knocking opponents out of the saddle.

Hitting or kicking another man's horse is allowed in both the tudabari free-for-all and in "lame" buzkashi.

In keeping with Afghan distaste for rules, even tame buzkashi sets no limits on the size of teams — they range from 10 to 50 or more depending on the size of the field and the importance of the occasion.

"Honoured guests and visitors," cried the announcer at the Khorrasan match, "please be careful. This is a dangerous game. Sometimes you have to move very quickly."

Moments earlier, dozens of spectators had to leap to safety as a phalanx of horses galloped along the edge of the field, the riders shouting at the top of their voices.

Origins Buzkashi's origins are shrouded in the ancient history of Central Asia but most experts agree Genghis Khan and his conquering hordes played a major role in spreading the game.

Historians relate that Genghis Khan's horsemen often attacked their victims' camps at full speed,

snatching up sheep and goats without dismounting.

Their victims acquired their attackers' equestrian skills to counter the advancing Mongols. That Afghan equestrian skills go back beyond Genghis Khan appears to be one of the few things on which the left-wing government in Kabul and the Muslim rebels fighting for its overthrow appear to agree.

"The great equestrian tradition out of which buzkashi developed — goes back as far as the time of Alexander the Great," says an Afghan government leaflet on the sport.

The leaflet says that expert horsemen fought Alexander's hitherto triumphant Army to a standstill.

"Afghanistan has been invaded several times, starting with Alexander the Great," cried the announcer at the Khorrasan Camp. "But we have never been conquered — we even defeated the Soviet superpower..."

By Tony Barber

WARSAW. (Reuters): Walk into one of Warsaw's most famous hotels these days and you will see a sign directing you to the press office of an illegal trade union.

Turn on the state-controlled television and you will see government spokesmen answer questions from journalists who once risked stiff prison sentences for publishing articles in the underground press.

Poland's political landscape has altered in startling ways since the communist authorities decided to open negotiations with Solidarity, the union they suppressed under martial law in December 1981.

Solidarity is still illegal, but its cells now function openly in factories, its spokesmen are shown on television wearing their union's distinctive red-and-white logo, and its leader Lech Walesa has been interviewed in the Soviet press.

Support Few people doubt that Solidarity will soon be re-legalised, part of a deal under which the authorities want opposition support for reforms intended to rescue Poland's shattered economy and minimise the danger to rescue political upheaval.

"It's exactly what we wanted to get," Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said last week when the government and opposition agreed that the union could re-emerge as a national movement grouping workers from all branches of industry.

The bargain includes government concessions that seemed remote even six months ago, such as allowing independent political clubs, giving the opposition up to 40 per cent of seats in parliament and legalising underground journals.

The authorities' decision to talk with the union whose activists were once jailed in their thousands inspired a humorous cartoon in the Warsaw magazine Szpilki.

Above the caption "a marriage of convenience," it showed Communist Party leader

Poland undergoes startling changes

Wojciech Jaruzelski, complete with military uniform and familiar dark glasses, escorting Walesa, dressed as a virgin bride, to their wedding.

The cartoon was a sign of the times. Walesa was for years either ignored or vilified by the official media, while it would once have been imprudent, to say the least, to depict the austere Jaruzelski with such irreverence.

Change But much has changed in official attitudes since the Communist Party, after fierce internal arguments, decided to open talks with Solidarity on Feb 6.

At daily news conferences in a building where the government once regularly denounced Walesa, official spokesmen now calmly answer points raised by a questioner identifying himself as "a representative of Lech Walesa's office."

In the nearby Europejski Hotel, a sign reading "Solidarity press office" leads you upstairs to a converted bar where, under a huge red-and-white Polish flag emblazoned with the word "Solidarity," union leaders give their version of events.

The choice of the Europejski for Solidarity's office is pointed since it was at the hotel's coffee shop in the late 1970s that dissident intellectuals who guided the union in its 1980-81 era used to gather to debate strategy.

Trust Now one of those same intellectuals, Jacek Kuron, who was first jailed in 1965 and who was tried in 1984 on charges of plotting to overthrow the state, is attending the talks with the government and is shown on television.

His colleague Adam Michnik, a dissident historian who has penned some of his most eloquent analyses of communism while in prison, is also sitting at the table with government

officials. The Solidarity leadership says it hopes the government has finally learned, more than seven years after martial law, that it cannot win society's trust without offering people sense of genuine participation in public affairs.

In contrast to the defiant stance which it was compelled to adopt under martial law, Solidarity now accepts compromises such as a proposal for elections in which the opposition will be ensured seats in parliament but the Communist Party and its allies will be guaranteed a majority.

"We think that this is a move in the right direction which will lead in the future to completely democratic elections," Onyszkiewicz said. "But we understand necessities and the need for stabilisation in a transition period."

His remarks reflected an awareness on the part of both Solidarity and the government that, without a new attempt at dialogue, Poland might suffer political unrest on a scale worse than any in its crisis-ridden communist period since 1945.

Hardships Economic hardships have rarely been worse in the 1980s, and spontaneous strikes have broken out this month in direct challenge to an appeal by the Solidarity leadership.

Both sides know they carry heavy responsibilities, but both also say the chances for agreement are increased by the fact that the Soviet Union is embarked on a course of change and seems ready to encourage a similar process in Poland.

There is only one direction," Walesa told government negotiators when the talks opened. "It must lead to a democratic system, towards the rule of law."

Muslim population growing fast

By David E. Anderson

WASHINGTON. (UPI): Muslims are the fastest growing population group and may account for nearly one quarter — 1.9 billion people — of the world's population by 2025, a new study said Thursday.

The study, "The Demography of Islamic Nations," was written by John Weeks and Saad Gadalla for the non-profit research group, the Population Reference Bureau and put the current world Muslim population at 984 million people.

Among the five most populous nations, the United States has by far the fewest Muslims, the report said.

It said estimates for the number of Muslims in the country varied widely, adding, "it is probably reasonable to assume that, as of 1988, the Muslim population... was somewhere between 1.5 million and 6 million."

Majority Only one European nation — Albania — has a majority Muslim population, the report said.

Indonesia is the most populous nation with a majority Muslim population, with 88 per cent of its 177 million people estimated to be Muslim.

Increase "Although Islam is a proselytizing religion, its proportionate increase in the modern world is much more a result of natural increase — the excess of births over deaths — than it is the conversion of non-Muslims to the Islamic faith," the report said.

It said the nations of the Muslim world "tend to be farther behind in the demographic transition from high to low birth and death rates than other major categories of nations" and they also have the highest fertility levels, the highest mortality levels and some of the highest rates of natural increase.

The report said there is considerable diversity among Muslim nations in population trends and few of the patterns "appear to be a direct result of religious influence."

It also noted that the religion does not forbid contraception, so religious beliefs are not the sole cause of the very high levels of Muslim births.

Instead, it said the high fertility — as in other Third World developing nations — is more likely a result of the stage of economic and social development most Muslim nations are in.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1594 — Britain's royal physician Roger Loper is arrested for alleged conspiracy to poison Queen Elizabeth.

1653 — English fleet defeats Dutch off Portland, England.

1806 — Austria joins Napoleon Bonaparte's "continental system": French forces capture Barcelona, Spain.

1825 — Britain and Russia sign treaty covering respective rights in Pacific Ocean areas.

1868 — Benjamin Disraeli replaces Lord Derby as Britain's prime minister.

1876 — Carlist war in Spain ends with flight of Don Carlos.

1877 — Peace treaty is signed between Turkey and Serbia.

1911 — Australia's Premier Andrew Fisher announces plans to nationalize monopolies.

1920 — Hungarian constitution is adopted.

1933 — Nazi decree suppresses civil liberties in Germany.

1942 — Japanese forces land in Java, Indonesia, in World War II.

1956 — India and Indonesia sign mutual aid treaty.

1962 — United States announces that new atomic tests will be conducted in atmosphere near Johnston Island in Pacific.

1974 — United States and Egypt re-establish diplomatic relations after seven-year breach.

1987 — Philippines President Corason Aquino announces "full and complete amnesty" to communist rebels who lay down their arms.

End of an era for Japan



EMPEROR HIROHITO
days after his death. He was 87 years old. He died of a heart attack. He was the last emperor of Japan. He was the first emperor to be born in the 20th century. He was the first emperor to be crowned in the 20th century. He was the first emperor to be crowned in the 20th century.

Rightwing groups, notorious for their loudspeaker vans blaring out anti-communist and pro-emperor slogans on quiet Sunday mornings, agree that with the loss of the symbol around which they rallied, things will never be the same again.

Neither will they ever be the same for the anti-emperor groups, vociferous critics of Hirohito's role in the war who charge that the government's funeral arrangements are in effect an attempt to revive the pre-1945 emperor worship.

In what could be the radicals' last hurrah, two extremist, anti-emperor groups had threatened to disrupt the funeral.

More than 32,000 police were on duty to guard against trouble, particularly a repeat of the homemade mortar bomb attack by one extremist group against Western leaders meeting in Tokyo in 1986.

In the middle are the vast mass of the Japanese people who don't

The man at the heart of the political and diplomatic storms still raging, was an unlikely figure to attract such extremes of emotion.

The image of Hirohito cultivated after the war — that of a loving family man and earnest botanist — seems to have been closer to the truth than that of the strutting military peacock known to the world before Japan's defeat in 1945.

Hirohito's son, the new Emperor Akihito, is also a quiet man, almost certain to steer Japan's Imperial Family even further from the turbulence of controversy that has dogged it for decades.

This week, the debate over the war and Hirohito's role are still the stuff of newspaper headlines. But Hirohito's burial in the hills to the west of Tokyo will help to move the debate out of the newspapers and into the history books.

Sudan on the road to anarchy

By Hamza Hendawi

NICOSIA. (Reuters): An Army challenge to Sudan's government threatens the country's fledgling democracy and may bring a bloodbath and anarchy to Africa's largest country, diplomats said on Thursday.

"Sudanese love their democracy," said one Khartoum-based diplomat. "It has not improved the quality of their lives, but they don't want the military or any one else to take away their freedom."

"Armed militias belonging to some of the political parties will only be too happy to fight the military in the name of democracy," he added.

Senior officers in the 60,000-strong Army, which has taken power three times since independence in 1956, maintain they have no intention of seizing power, the diplomats said.

But the officers have also warned there was no guarantee that middle-ranking and junior officers would abide by the views of their superiors.

Reforms The armed forces gave Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and head of state Ahmed Ali Al Mirghani a one-week ultimatum on Wednesday demanding political and economic reforms.

It was the first public political activity since 1985 by the Army, poorly-equipped and exasperated by a five-year-old civil war against southern rebels that neither side appears able to win.

The crisis coincided with one of Khartoum's frequent acute shortages of basic food and other items, a reflection of the country's crippled economy and the costs of the war, the second since 17 years of civil strife in the south ended in 1972.

Mahdi, in office since May 1986 following the country's first democratic polls in nearly 20 years, pledged during an eight-hour meeting on Wednesday with the armed forces' five top officers to publicise the Army's demands.

Demands The diplomats said the demands included the formation of a broad-based coalition government and a review of foreign policy to ensure outside support for the Army and an end to what they said was Sudan's growing isolation abroad.

The Army's ultimatum, the diplomats said, was also linked to the resignation on Tuesday of Defence Minister Abdul-Maged Hamed Khalil, a retired Army general known to be popular with his men.

He was replaced by Salah Abdul-Salam, a pro-Libyan tribal chieftain and a Mahdi aide who was among scores of Army officers purged by former President Jaafar Nimeiri in the early 1970s.

"No one in the Army wants him. He is a living symbol of everything the Army does not want," said one Arab diplomat.

Speaking by telephone, the diplomats in Khartoum and Cairo said the Al Ansar militia

of Mahdi's Umma Party was likely to lead the fight against any attempt to seize power.

Khartoum press reports on Thursday said the militia was on full alert in anticipation of a possible military coup.

Al Ansar is a Muslim sect with an estimated two million followers mainly in the central, Darfur and Kordofan regions. It is the powerhouse of Umma, which together with the National Islamic Front Party (NIF) are the main coalition partners.

Al Ansars are the descendants of tribesmen who supported the 19th century revolt against Turko-Egyptian rule under Imam Al Mahdi, the prime minister's great grandfather.

The diplomats estimate the size of the militia at up to 50,000 men and say its elite units are deployed on the northern and western outskirts of Khartoum.

The militia has in recent years received arms from Iran and Libya, with which Mahdi has close ties dating back to the 1970s.

War Army leaders, the diplomats said, privately blame politicians for the continuation of the war in the south, ruthlessly fought with both sides rarely taking prisoners.

Their move followed a series of humiliating defeats at the hands of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which wants to end what it sees as the domination of their animist and Christian region by the Muslim and Arabised north.

'If Rushdie is murdered, the bubble could burst'

Satanic Verses: UK Muslims fear racist backlash

Five weeks after the ceremonial burning of Salman Rushdie's book in Bradford, UK, there are signs that a deeper cultural conflict between the white and Muslim communities is brewing in this city with over 50,000 Muslims.

By Tim Raiment

FRIDAY night in a Bradford working men's club, and Salman Rushdie is being spoken of as one of the lads.

"The lad's entitled to write what he wants."

"This is a free bloody country."

"They're starting to dictate to us."

"There's a lot of resentment."

The city has 50,000 Muslims, one of the highest communities in Britain, and the authorities are growing concerned. Five weeks after the ceremonial burning of Rushdie's book, there are signs that a deeper cultural conflict, between the white and Muslim communities, is brewing.

It is the third time in the past few years that the city has witnessed a strained and angry debate. There has been a passionate campaign for Muslim children in schools, and a fierce row about multicultural education, started by an article in the Salisbury Review by Ray Honeyford, a Bradford headmaster.

Eric Pickles, the city council's Conservative leader, says: "There's the potential of a straight clash between the two cultures."

Pat Wall, Bradford North's Labour MP, agrees: "The risk of a racist backlash is quite high."

Already more than 3,000 Monday Club leaflets have been distributed in the city, using the affair to call for an end to immigration. The local evening newspaper, the Telegraph and Argus, has received many letters in Rushdie's support.

Jim Greenhalf, a writer on the paper, says many of these letters "are tense with the sort of restrained anger that was expressed during the Ray Honeyford affair between 1984 and 1985."

Last weekend, national leaders from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Hindu faiths

met in secret to discuss their response to the issues raised. But Bradford's cultural misunderstandings are difficult to address.

Few non-Muslims have any grasp of the hurt felt by those who regard The Satanic Verses as a filthy, blasphemous insult to their most deeply held beliefs. Few Muslims see anything but puzzlement in the argument that religious thought is open to challenge and debate.

In the modern Jamia Islamia mosque in Great Horton, the faithful meet for prayers every Friday. Here, one 11-year-old, named Shahid, captured the feelings of many of his elders: "Our prophet's wife was the mum of all Muslims. He (Rushdie) had no right to say she was a prostitute in that book. He's saying all Muslim ladies are prostitutes."

Among the adults, there is bewilderment that this can be published yet a book like Spycatcher can be banned, and tabloid newspapers can be forced to pay damages for printing certain pictures of the Queen. If the blasphemy law protected Islam as it does Christianity, The Satanic Verses would not have been allowed, they say.

Extremist

"We don't want to cause any trouble, all we are asking is just to ban the book," explains Mohammad Din, who says his allegations make him hurt inside. He says that "waking up Muslim fundamentalism in Britain could lead to worse trouble." "There will be no return. The situation has come to that."

Din is not an extremist. Unlike some, who are locked into their own community and do not learn English, he has married a Christian, now converted to Islam, and has fostered many children without interfering with their faiths.

David Moore, a chief inspector and race relations officer with West Yorkshire police, tries to talk down the threat. "Yes,



British Muslims protest The Satanic Verses.

there's heat, but in the long term I don't think it will have much of an impact," he says.

"In the month that this has been running in Bradford, we have had one demonstration — very peaceful — well marshalled by the Council of Mosques themselves and lawfully conducted. There have been no attacks on people or property. In spite of the deep-seated anger in the Muslim community, that's all."

But anger on both sides of the issue is growing. "Entrenched

cultural values are involved," says Pickles. "On the one hand, the concept of literary freedom runs through all classes of British society. On the other, Muslims ask how a society can exist where a perceived blasphemy against Islam is tolerated."

On the past experience, he says, the issue will become the focus of irrational racial discontent. "You see it as lots of letters to the paper, the general reluctance of people to attend functions where races mix."

"In a muddling kind of way, race relations in Bradford in the past few years have been quite acceptable, but if things change you move to a greater potential for a flashpoint."

Others say the same: the atmosphere changes, certain jokes become "acceptable"; again, relations between Bradford's 75,000 Asians and 385,000 others get worse.

In the Italia Cafe on Great Horton Road, feelings among young Muslims are running



A group of teen-age Muslims in Bradford. They all think Rushdie should die for his blasphemy.

high. In the group of six around one fruit machine, all say Rushdie should die. This is not just peer-group bravado. Although Ghanie, 17, admits he would murder Rushdie only for the money, and there is nothing wrong with the book "by my standards", the others are united in their view.

Disgrace

"The book is a disgrace to Islam, that's it," says Caj, 18. "It has a lot of comments that Islam is wrong and all that. Well, that's what the papers say, you've got to believe it."

One white teenager in the cafe understood how they felt. "It's not right for (Rushdie) to knock it (Islam) because it's just lies," says Mark Rosconie, 15.

However, Jason, who is 12, white and goes to a Catholic school, has no doubts that Rushdie is wrong.

"If a person does not believe in their own religion then they should not interfere," he says. "I believe in God, but whether it is Muslim, Catholic or Protestant does not matter."

This perception does not appear to be widely shared. In the North Bierley Labour club, a short walk from Jason's home, John, Jim and Jack discussed the affair last week.

Jack was openly racist. Jim, a 42-year-old builder, disassociated himself from his friend's remarks, but said: "There's a lot of resentment. We should sell the book in every bookshop in Bradford. This is a free bloody country. This has done more damage to race relations than anything. If Rushdie is murdered, the bubble could burst."

Pat Wall, their MP, returned from Westminster last Friday and could read the signs.

"We've had the experience of the Honeyford affair, when some people tried to make racism respectable in this town, and the halal meat campaign, which was used by racists parading as animal lovers," he says.

"Seeking to ban this book would very likely result in other groups demanding action in retaliation against Muslims and the Muslim religion, with racist repercussions. Already people are talking about it in pubs."

Courtesy: Sunday Times

UK Muslims urged to stay within the law

Blasphemy laws cannot be reviewed: UK home secretary

By Jenny Rees

DOUGLAS HURD, the UK Home Secretary told Muslims in Birmingham's Central Mosque on Sunday that death threats over the Salman Rushdie affair were "wholly unacceptable" and that there could be no question of reviewing the blasphemy laws as some Muslims have demanded.

He was heckled briefly during a question-and-answer session after he had told a group of 180 Muslim leaders that he understood how aggrieved and hurt British Muslims had been by Rushdie's book, The Satanic Verses.

"You clearly feel as if the most sacred things of your faith have been insulted and wounded. You feel shocked and you feel angry."

In a free society, he said, British Muslims were entitled to speak out in defence of their faith and to protest about a book which they believe denigrated and insulted the Prophet of Islam (PBUH).

"But to turn such protests towards violence or the threat of violence is wholly unacceptable. Threats of death, talk of arrows being directed at hearts, are vicious and repugnant to any civilised man or woman."

The law in the UK, he said, was "above us all" and no one was entitled to pick and choose which law could or could not be obeyed.

"It is the law which permits freedom of worship for religious minorities and which allows you to go out and seek converts from other religions. It is the law which punishes racial attacks and racial harassment."

"It is the law which protects the weak against the strong; it is a shield and a refuge, perhaps for religious and ethnic minorities more than for anyone else."

Welcoming statements by Muslim leaders that their people living in Britain must respect British laws, Hurd went on: "Respect for the rule of law is a fundamental principle for which this nation stands. So are

freedom of speech and expression and the toleration of different opinions. These are the ideals to which the British people are firmly committed and for which they have made sacrifices over the years."

Debate

"We can debate whether or not an individual speaker or writer has gone beyond the normal conventions about decency and respect for the views of others, but we are entitled to expect everyone in this country to respect these ideals and all leaders of communities here to give them their full-hearted support."

"I am confident that the leaders of Britain's Muslim communities will share the view, given the tradition of mercy and forgiveness enshrined in Muslim beliefs and practice."

The Birmingham Central Mosque, built in 1975, is the largest of the 60 mosques in the city, which has 120,000 Muslims, the largest community in Britain.

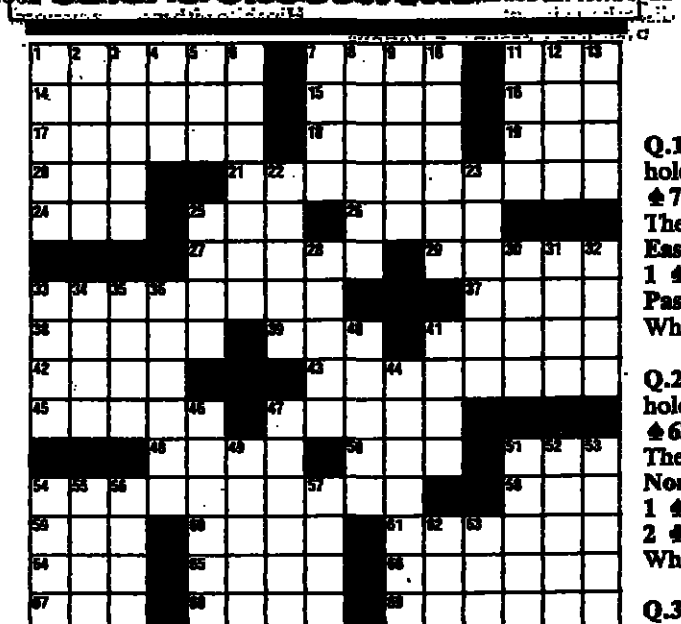
On his arrival Hurd listened to a speech given by Dr Mohammed Nazem, chairman of the mosque, who said that British Muslims, in an initial emotional response, had found Rushdie's book "profane, obscene, offensive and insulting."

He said "There can be no wisdom in allowing something that is going to rip society apart. I hope those who support Rushdie's right to express himself realise what they are defending."

In answer to demands from the audience to reconsider the blasphemy laws and to prevent further publication of the book, Hurd said that the Law Commission had looked at the laws of blasphemy "some years ago." Only a minority believed that they should be amended.

When asked to consider censoring material that offended religious minorities, as in this case, Hurd said: "It is not the job of government to censor books. I have read the book and, in my personal opinion, it is not a great book."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Lanky monkey of SE Asia
 - 7 Spore sacs
 - 11 That guy's
 - 14 Actress Stritch
 - 15 Comparative word
 - 16 Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 17 Replace a receiver
 - 18 Bandsman
 - 19 Water, e.g.
 - 20 One — time
 - 21 Skier of a sort
 - 24 Legal point
 - 25 Sesame
 - 26 Mother Hubbard, for one
 - 27 Sour
 - 29 See 33 Across
 - 33 Semanticist's concern
 - 37 Sock or smack trailer
 - 38 Puff up
 - 39 Snatch
 - 41 Mary or John Jacob
 - 42 From — (completely)
 - 43 Days of yore, to Burns
 - 45 Greek liqueurs
 - 47 Thrusting sword
 - 48 Proper —
 - 50 Some
 - 51 Lili x li
 - 54 Creole shellfish dish
 - 58 Dykstra of baseball
 - 59 Eye, in Oviedo
 - 60 Calendar abbr.
 - 61 Statement
 - 64 — Dogs and Englishmen...
 - 65 Lagomorph
 - 66 Even the score
 - 67 Cut
- DOWN**
- 2 Susanne — U.S.
 - 3 philosopher 1895-1985
 - 4 The Mary Widow
 - 5 composer
 - 6 Winged
 - 7 Nursemaids
 - 8 Jazzman's job
 - 9 Burmese statesman
 - 10 Copy
 - 11 7 — o'clock scholar
 - 12 Like a Disney
 - 13 Producer
 - 14 Pontil
 - 15 Family members
 - 16 Word with light or moon
 - 17 Netman
 - 18 Nastase
 - 19 Monogram in ancient Rome
 - 20 Bring into agreement
 - 21 But
 - 22 Upright
 - 23 Begins the
 - 24 Pretentious
 - 25 High time
 - 26 Senator from Tennessee
 - 27 Angle
 - 28 Iron
 - 29 Utah ski area
 - 30 Cubbyhole
 - 31 Looking
 - 32 Not — eye
 - 33 Part of EPA
 - 34 Unspoken
 - 35 Comfort
 - 36 Makes a record of
 - 37 Prevailing
 - 38 Resounding sound
 - 39 Brink
 - 40 Pressman, at times
 - 41 Casa — Toronto landmark
 - 42 Trojan war hero
 - 43 Bump
 - 44 "You're right!"
 - 45 Stowe's Little
 - 46 "The —"
 - 47 Brand film

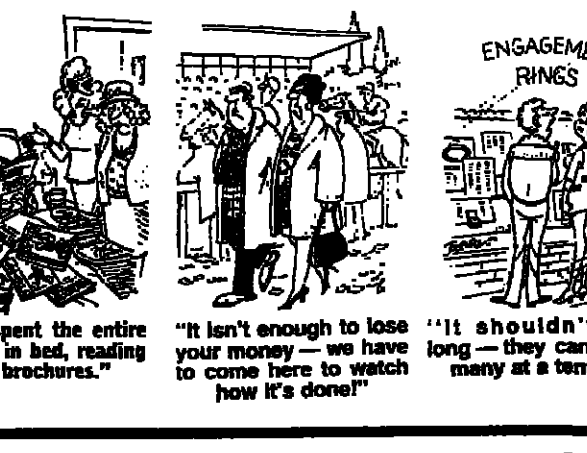
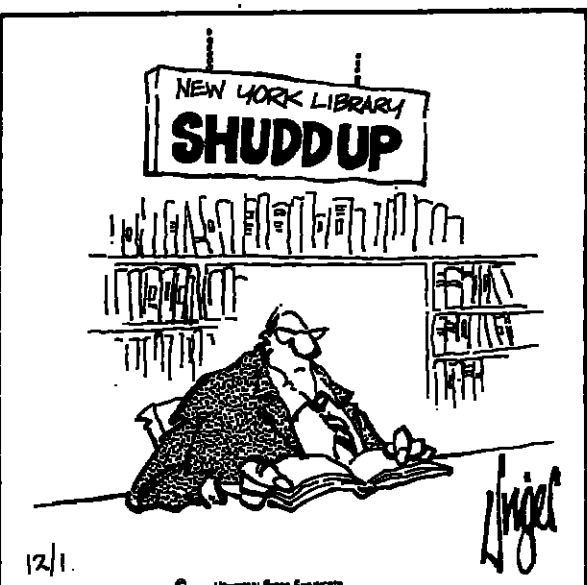
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PIER ATBAT AGT
ANNE BURRO NARC
UPTHEGREEK DRIP
LURER KATE IPSO
STEAHS DENIRO
TAUT SCIOOPS
PAMS REAR ENLAI
AMI SEALEGS ERE
RODEO LEAR TRIG
ASSESS MATTISSE
TROPHY SHE
TERI ROAN ATALE
ALEE INHOTWATER
PIAS NOONE COGS
AMIT GROOM SPOT

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠7 ♥KJ93 ♦AQ10762 ♣AK
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♥
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠632 ♥10873 ♦954 ♣AQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠962 ♥AK8762 ♦KJ9 ♣7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠QJ93 ♥AQ76 ♦J105 ♣74
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AJ98 ♥K63 ♦Q82 ♣A107
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AJ98 ♥K63 ♦Q82 ♣A107
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
Do not eat merely out of habit or boredom. You have no time to waste on secondary matters. Make sure you use all the commonsense you can summon and more. Be pleasant.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Venus' better influence will help you to make up a quarrel. You should not allow yourself to become agitated because you are late, concentrate and work consistently.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
You will have some good ideas but not all of them will be appropriate to the situation. You will be proved right but should not rub it in. You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. Be resilient.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19**
Venus' better influence will make it easier for you to effect a reconciliation. You should not think that others are against you to any extreme extent. They are not. Make sure you do not say anything you do not really mean. Be impartial.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You should not try to have your cake and eat it. You should not attempt to do anything by force nor should you be too impatient. If you do your best that is all you can be expected to do. Be moderate.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
You should not try to settle an old score. You will feel in high spirits but you must try to avoid doing anything impromptu. You should pay more attention to what others are saying and doing. Be accurate.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Venus' better influence will help you to consolidate some gains you have made. You should try to look on the positive rather than on the gloomy side. Make sure you do not endanger your health. Be abstemious.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
You will be able to have an interesting day but you must not make any rash promises. You will be able to deal with some complications eliminating most of them.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
The better influence of the Moon will help you to deal with someone rather irritable. You should not expect to have all things your own way. Time is short, but do not get flustered just get on with it. Be punctual.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
Do not hesitate to take good advice and do not resent well-meaning criticism. Do not just let things happen try to stay in control. Deal with essentials, leaving secondary matters until later if necessary. Be prompt.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Make sure you do not leave everything until the last minute. 6 and 55 are your lucky numbers. You are liable to slips of the tongue and must try harder to control yourself.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
Venus' better influence will help you to deal with a personal problem. You are rather too liable to do the first thing that comes into your head. Once you have made up your mind what to do get on with it. Be pertinent.

God willing . . . next time in Kabul

Ex-King Zahir Shah: waiting in the wings

By Ann Leslie

"THIS current war is not a new thing for us you know. We've been through so many such wars before..."

Against the British, for example? The old King smiled ruefully at me across the porcelain cups and the carnations on the coffee-table. 'Yes, against the British, against others before you, against Genghis Khan — Afghanistan, you know, was the only place where Genghis Khan ever met real resistance; his favourite grandson was killed there and in revenge he massacred our people...'

'So, yes, we often wonder why people don't learn lessons from our past. And the chief lesson seems to be that superpowers — from Genghis Khan onwards — who meddle in the affairs of this ferociously brave and miserably poor little nation, do so at their peril.'

Afghan leaders have rarely had an easy time, their rule frequently ending in exile or assassination or both. Zahir Shah's father, Nadir Shah, was assassinated by a student in front of his eyes.

Afghans seem to be born with guns in their teeth; if they aren't killing intruders in their high and beautiful deserts and valleys, they're often killing each other. As the cynical Afghan saying has it: 'Do I have enemies? I have cousins, and the sons of cousins!' The latest intruders have, like so many others, given up in despair. Last week the last of the defeated, demoralised Soviet troops in their furry blue 'shapka' hats left Afghanistan after nine bloody years, into the freezing mountain mists on the Afghan-Russian border.

Meanwhile here, in an elegant, sunlit villa in the peaceful Italian countryside, I find myself sipping coffee and discussing dogs ('Mine is a very tiny dog so, as a joke, I call it Maxi!'), the pleasures of staying in Buckingham Palace ('Of all my State

As the Afghan mujahedeen close in on the beleaguered capital Kabul, the 74-year-old ex-king of Afghanistan waits patiently in the peaceful Italian countryside for a call to return to his unhappy country.

visits, that is the one whose memory always lives with me') with a tall, dignified and once-forgotten old man in a three-piece suit who — many Afghans believe — is the only man who can still avert the coming blood-bath.

Forgotten no longer, and fruitlessly pursued by the world's Press, 74-year-old ex-King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan lives in modest exile outside Rome in the rented terracotta-red villa where we met for this exclusive interview.

His four sons — one living in America, another in Canada —

Minister, overthrew him in 1973 while he was on holiday in Ischia.

'And so I abdicated to save my country from bloodshed, or so I hoped. No, I never foresaw that the Soviets would invade. But then I never foresaw that my cousin Daoud would overthrow me.'

Not that Daoud's 'cousinly' action did the latter much good. He and 30 members of his family, including women and children, were massacred in Communist coup and Afghanistan thus began its downward spiral into chaos and war.

Placidly Ever since then, the ex-King has lived placidly in Italy with his Queen, his devoted son-in-law, General Wali, his two Filipino servants and his tiny dog. 'What do I do with my days? Oh, I exercise in the garden, receive visitors, keep in touch...' He has few mementos of the past; a wild ram's head in the hall the only reminder of the days when he used to hunt the Marco Polo ibex in the high Afghan valleys, and fish for trout in mountain streams now shattered and despoiled by nine years of Soviet bombs.

Only the armed Italian carabinieri outside the villa's gate hint at the constant danger in which he still lives.

And now with, I suspect, thoroughly mixed feelings, he's been told that three of the squabbling guerrilla groups are demanding his return to Afghanistan and his throne in order to re-unite the devastated country.

'I have said that I will accept, without pre-condition, any role, mission or duty, that the people of Afghanistan will bestow on me, or request of me,' he told me solemnly.



Ex-King Zahir Shah: everyone is entitled to their own logic, he says.

He did not sound overjoyed at the prospect and admits that he had long given up thoughts of return. 'Although the longing, the nostalgia for my homeland, was always there, frankly I never expected these events. Everything in my life has always been... precipitated.'

Afghan leaders have rarely had an easy time, their rule frequently ending in exile or assassination or both. On a wall

behind him, a portrait of his father, the bespectacled and turbaned King Nadir Shah, who was assassinated by a student at a Kabul prize-giving.

'I was only 19 when I saw him murdered in front of me. Seeing him fall down before my eyes was a terrible shock — my only reflex was to fling myself on him to try to protect him.'

Shortly afterwards the bewildered teenager was declared



King Zahir Shah with Queen Elizabeth of Britain, and (right) Nadir Shah — the father he saw assassinated.

King (and received a condolence telegram from George V: 'I am profoundly shocked by the tragic news of the traitorous and dastardly assassination of the late King, Nadir Shah, your august father, I hasten to express my detestation of this dastardly crime').

'I was terribly unprepared for what happened. At the age of eight I had left my country and my family to be educated in France and my childhood had been spent in boarding school and with French families, trying to master a different culture, a different language.'

'My father's death was so unexpected because he was young and strong. He was only 49 when he was killed.'

Welfare 'The power and the ceremonial that goes with a throne was never something I wanted or enjoyed, so I felt a terrible burden descend on me. But then there was the sense of a duty I owed to my people.'

'And now, at my time of life, I once again feel that sense of duty, that heavy responsibility towards the welfare of my people.'

But can Afghanistan ever recover its national unity? 'I believe so. The psychology of war is difficult to overcome but in 1929, after King Amanullah was overthrown, there was a terrible period of bloodletting. It was Afghan against Afghan and people wondered whether the country would ever be at peace. But people become tired, you know, they want peace, they do not want to go on.'

After that confusion and bloodletting was over, and after

my father's assassination, we did have 40 years of tranquillity until 1973 (the year that he was overthrown).

As he talked, in a grave and formal Pashtu translated by his faithful Sandhurst-educated General Wali, I remembered another visitor who, not long ago, had sat like me on this same white sofa, sipping coffee with the King.

He was Gorbachev's emissary, the Soviet negotiator Yuli Vorontsov, fruitlessly searching for some face-saving formula

brought this tragedy on our nation — is, to say the least, very difficult to conceive.

But isn't there some truth in the Soviet argument that only the current Communist regime has the infrastructure to ensure an orderly progression to a free Afghanistan? He gave a thin smile. 'Everyone is entitled to their own logic, however mistaken.'

I told him how, as a small child, I'd spoken a little Pashtu, and that I remembered my father's passion for the beauty of Afghan-

'The power and the ceremonial that goes with a throne was never something I wanted or enjoyed, so I felt a terrible burden descend on me. But then, there was the sense of a duty I owed to my people.'

before the Russians pulled out. The Soviets wanted the King to persuade his countrymen to accept some members of Najibullah's Marxist regime into an interim government.

Yet as the King pointed out to me: 'The overwhelming majority of Afghans rejected the Communist Party when it seized power in 1978, and they struggled even more fiercely against the Soviet invasion in '79. As a result, more than one-and-a-half million Afghan lives have been lost, five million Afghans have fled their country into exile, and our people have endured countless sacrifices in our struggle for our freedom, our Islamic values and our Afghan way of life.'

Under these circumstances, the future participation in any interim government of any Afghan Communists — who

istan; the villages of the high Panjshir valley, the profusion of birds and flowers, the scent of wild mulberry trees in blossom.

For a moment, the 74-year-old King's eyes misted over. 'The way you have described the beauty of the Panjshir and its mulberry trees, it is so accurate...'

And all that beauty has now been destroyed? For a brief moment, this courteous, grave and deeply formal man seemed close to unsheddable tears. After a pause he murmured quietly: 'Unfortunately...yes. It is destroyed.'

As he led me to the door and out into the Italian spring sunshine, I turned and said: 'I hope that when I next meet Your Majesty it will be in Kabul.'

He gave a slight bow of the head. 'Inshallah. God willing...in Kabul.'

Fashion world mourns designer Laroche

By Gail Rolfe

FASHION designer Guy Laroche died in Paris last week after a long battle against cancer. He was 66, one of the leading old school French couturiers, and worked right up until the day he died. The French high-fashion world wore black for the death of the man who dressed women in simple but ultra-feminine clothes at affordable prices.

'Guy Laroche dressed women, he didn't disguise them,' said designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac. He was rewarded by sales that turned his once minor couture house into the largest French ready-to-wear designer label.

Laroche is also known for women's perfumes and the men's fragrance, Drakkar.

Laroche's final collection appeared at the spring haute couture show just three weeks ago and featured figure-hugging, strapless tops in vibrant yellows and oranges, with short bolero tops and loose, flowing trousers.

It won him the coveted Golden Thimble, the second time in a career spanning three decades that he received the highest



Guy Laroche (right) adjusting the head-dress of Alessandra Mussolini, one of his star models.

accolade the fashion industry could give.

Guy Laroche was born in La Rochelle, near Bordeaux, in 1923 and came to Paris aged 25 with no immediate goals or ambitions.

Trudging Through a cousin who worked at Jean Patou he toured several couture houses, fell in love with the business and decided to try his luck as a designer.

He began, as so many young hopefuls do, by trudging round the famous houses with a bundle of sketches. He found a job with Jean Dessès, one of the best-

known Parisian dress houses, and stayed there until 1954.

Then came a decision that was to have a dramatic effect on his career. He decided to go to New York to study the American technique of designing.

He returned to Paris in 1956 and set up his own fashion house. His first small collection for winter 1957 was shown from his own apartment. His style of casual, youthful and essentially simple clothes owed much to the American influence.

By 1961 he had established his own couture business and boutique on the exclusive

Avenue Montaigne, alongside other greats such as Nina Ricci, Jean-Louis Scherrer and Christian Dior. Menswear followed in 1966 and his first perfume, Fidji, a year later.

Guy Laroche had an undoubted flair for making the kind of clothes that most women like to wear. They were young-looking, lively and comfortable. Daring innovation and eccentricity were never his signature.

But he was credited with introducing the Baby Doll look, with its love of soft, pastel shades such as deep apricot and palest yellow peach.

By Denis D. Gray

BANGKOK, Thailand, (AP): On a continent where kings once were revered as gods, Asia's six surviving monarchies include a diverse clutch of modernizing kings and a sultan who wields absolute power.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, the world's longest reigning monarch since the death of Japan's Emperor Hirohito, has initiated thousands of rural development projects and spends much of each year in the countryside personally helping peasants design irrigation canals, improve crops and combat disease.

In Nepal, Harvard-educated King Birendra criss-crosses his mountainous nation in a way his isolated predecessors never did. He has a set goal of fulfilling the basic needs of an impoverished populace by the year 2000.

In the other Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk pores over economic development plans and deals almost daily with petitions submitted by subjects.

Hirohito, is widely credited with having contributed to Japan's postwar economic miracle by preserving unity and traditional virtues through his symbolic role. But the late emperor, who renounced his divinity after Japan's defeat in World War II, spent most of his 62 years on the Chrysanthemum throne behind the walls of Tokyo's imperial palace.

His son and successor, Emperor Akihito, 55, broke with tradition by marrying a commoner and has travelled with his family by train, thrown out the first ball at baseball games and mixed with his fellow Japanese at numerous public functions.

Breach But although he is expected to breach some of the barriers between emperor and subjects, Akihito is unlikely to interact as intimately with his subjects and their daily problems as do the other Asian royals — nor wield anywhere near as much tangible power.

A hereditary kingdom also remains in Malaysia, where

Asia's reigning kings changing with the times



Sultan of Brunei



King Bhumibol of Thailand



King Birendra and Queen Ratna of Nepal

every five years one of the country's sultans is elected a constitutional monarch.

The most powerful and richest of the continent's hereditary monarchs is Brunei's 42-year-old Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, an absolute ruler who resides in a 1,788-room palace and keeps some of his 200 horses in air-conditioned stables. Fortune magazine in the United States last year named him the world's richest man, with assets estimated at 25 billion US dollars.

Besides being head of state, he is also prime minister and defence minister and has included two of his brothers in the cabinet to help rule over the oil-rich nation of 227,000 people on the north coast of Borneo.

The sultan moves freely among his subjects and is credited with a number of civic improvements.

His reign also harkens back to days when the pomp, pageantry and proclamations of hundreds of bluebloods — kings, princes, sultans, maharajahs, nawabs and nizams — were as vital a part of Asia as its rice fields. This century, however, royal ranks have been thinned by communist revolutions, independence struggles and the spread of democracy.

The last of emperor of China

abdicated in 1912. Communists ended imperial rule in Vietnam at the end of World War II. India's independence from Great Britain in 1947 sounded the knell for myriads of royals. Kampuchea's kingdom ended amidst war and chaos in 1970, though Prince Norodom Sihanouk, formerly the king, is still active as an exiled guerrilla faction leader.

The last king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, was toppled in 1973 and exiled in Italy, though he has offered to help in a transition government in his country.

Asia's hereditary kingdoms have deep roots and their foreseeable futures appear secure. Twenty-two other nations in Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe and the Pacific have retained some form of royalty.

Akihito is 125th in a line of emperors said to stretch back 2,600 years. Though historians regard the first 14 emperors as figures of myth, the Japanese imperial line is still the world's oldest hereditary monarchy, and public opinion polls favour its continuation.

Bhumibol, probably the most respected man in Thailand, is heir to 750 years of monarchy. Bolkiah is Brunei's 29th ruler, while Nepal and Bhutan each have centuries-old kingly traditions.

Although a constitutional monarch, the 61-year-old Thai King is regarded as semi-divine by some and widely viewed as having held the country together through the government coups and abortive power grabs that have marked recent decades. He openly intervened to stop a bloody student-led uprising in 1973 and has in other moments of national crisis played a decisive behind-the-scenes role.

Named king in 1946 and crowned four years later while a jazz-loving teenager, Bhumibol initially was viewed as a lightweight to be used by military strongmen. Instead, he gradually reversed the decline in prestige of the throne, largely through bypassing the elite to work for the mass of have-nots in the countryside.

Nepal's Birendra, 43, likewise has sought links with the rural poor, making frequent trips to remote areas to hand out relief supplies and hear the problems of villagers. But knowledgeable sources in Nepal and neighbouring India assert much of the effort is negated by corruption that has touched the royal family and its retainers, if not necessarily the king himself.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

A FEW FACTS ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

QUESTION: Although I scan most health columns, I find little mention of multiple sclerosis. Since we now have to deal with this disease, we need more information to help us cope. I'm sure you could help us.

ANSWER: Information is our most precious ally when facing an unknown situation or problem, and we will start with this answer for you.

According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, more than 250,000 Americans currently suffer with multiple sclerosis (MS). One of the tragedies of this disease is that it strikes the young — most patients are diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 40 — although it can strike people both younger and older. Women are the victims twice as frequently as men and come down with the disease at an earlier age.

We know some important facts about MS. It isn't an infectious disease and isn't contagious, but probably is caused by an abnormality in the body's immune mechanisms. There is an inherited predisposition to

the disease, and we see it more commonly in children of MS sufferers. The disease is not fatal, and patients can lead long productive lives.

MS is a disease of the central nervous system, where it attacks the white matter, known as myelin, which sheathes or wraps the nerve fibres like a type of insulation. When the myelin is destroyed, plaques or scars develop, and the nerve signals that normally pass along the nerve fibres, are stopped. This creates the symptoms of weakness in the muscles, changes in feeling with numbness or tingling, double vision, dizziness or light-headedness, and many other disturbing symptoms that depend upon the area of damage in the nervous system. The symptoms may come and go, only to return again.

While there is no specific treatment, many are currently using with some effect, and more are being developed. Cortisone-like substances are frequently used during acute attacks.

QUESTION: I am thinking of purchasing an electrical muscle stimulator so I can tone up my stomach muscles without those painful situps. What do you think of the idea?

ANSWER: Not much I am afraid, and neither does the US Food and Drug Administration. They have been stopping the sale of such devices for years and even seized a number of muscle stimulators in the early 1980s to prevent them from reaching the market place.

While the devices may contract your muscles for you, there is little gain if muscles do not contract against resistance. That means work, and work means sweat, without which there rarely is gain.

Under medical supervision, the devices serve some useful purposes. They are helpful in relaxing muscle spasms, preventing blood clots in patients confined to bed, and preventing muscle atrophy in a paralyzed arm or leg.

1989 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

US to reduce controls on exports to communist world

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. (Reuters): The Commerce Department next week will announce relaxed export controls over the sale of low-level technology to China and other communist countries, department officials said yesterday.

They said the new control list was agreed to last year by the Paris-based Co-ordinating Committee on Export Controls (COCOM), a group formed by Western allies after World War Two to curb the export of modern technology to communist nations.

The officials said some of technology, all low-level and with no military application, would be decontrolled outright while others would have controls eased.

Relaxation They said the relaxation would be aimed at opening technology exports to China and that other COCOM nations were making similar amendments to their export regulations.

The officials did not give details of what goods would be on the list, which is to be published in the Federal Register, the official document recording US executive actions.

Commerce's action was in keeping with COCOM decisions last year to put tougher curbs on the sale of high-technology goods with war-making application but at the same time ease controls on strictly civilian-use technology.

US businessmen have complained that the American export control list inhibited exports because many products on the list had no military applications and were readily available from non-COCOM nations.

EEC becomes Brazil's principal trade partner

BRASILIA, Brazil, Feb. 27. (AP): The European Economic Community has surpassed the United States as Brazil's principal market in January, tallying \$681 million worth of exports to the 12-nation bloc, the government said yesterday.

The Bank of Brazil's foreign trade office said the January trade surplus was \$1.611 billion, up 53.37 per cent over January 1988.

Brazilian exports to the EEC grew by almost 39 per cent, while exports to the US market were \$552 million, a drop of 14.81 per cent from January of last year.

Exports The president of the Central Foundation for the Study of Foreign Trade, Benedicto Moreira, told the financial daily Gazeta Mercantil that the fall in exports to the United States was due to US commercial reprisals against Brazilian goods.

"The threats of reprisals are very grave. The United States is trying to frighten Brazil," Moreira said, referring to the disputes between the two countries over computers and pharmaceutical patents.

Moreira said the outlook for increased trade with the EEC was excellent because the integration of EEC economies in 1992 will create an internal market very similar in size to that of the United States.

State-run enterprises in China pile up losses

BEIJING, Feb. 27. (AP): Losses in China's inefficiently run, state-owned industrial enterprises jumped by 26.6 per cent last year compared to 1987, the official China Daily said today.

The daily quoted Guo Zhi-shan, an official of the state commission for restructuring the economic system, as saying losses were particularly heavy in companies under direct control of the central government.

He said 25 per cent of central government-run plants lost money, up from 21 per cent in 1987, and the amount of their losses rose 61 per cent.

Enterprises run by local governments fared better, cutting losses by 0.5 per cent.

System Guo said locally run enterprises did better because more had adopted the contract responsibility system which makes factory managers liable for losses and provides them benefits for profits.

The report did not give a figure for total losses, but the government last year paid an estimated 40 billion yuan (\$10.8 billion), about a sixth of the total budget, to subsidise state-run factories.

Inflation in consumer prices in advanced countries could reach 4pc

GATT sees record world trade growth in '89

GENEVA, Feb. 27. (Reuters): World trade grew at its fastest rate for four years in 1988 and looks set for record growth this year, the GATT trade body said today.

Merchandise trade rose 8.5 per cent last year, equalling the record registered in the boom year of 1984 and surpassing the most optimistic forecasts, the secretariat of the 96-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade said.

The rate, which compares with a 5.5 per cent increase in 1987, is the fourth consecutive year of accelerating trade growth, GATT said in preliminary report.

It forecast another record year of growth in 1989, provided governments kept world markets open and controlled a modest spurt of inflation in some industrialised states, including the

United States, Britain, France and West Germany.

"The current expansionist phase in the world economy has become more vigorous than the previous one. The volume of world merchandise trade is up nearly 40 per cent and world output up 25 per cent from their 1982 recession levels," the report said.

World merchandise trade value in 1988 was estimated at \$2,840 billion, a four per cent increase over the 1987 figure, the report said.

Rise Greater trade volume accounted for most of the rise, but inflation and a further moderate depreciation of the dollar exchange rate also contributed, the report said.

Predictions for 1989 were that inflation in consumer prices in advanced countries could reach four per cent, "with some risks

on the up-side."

"But while this situation has led to a tightening of monetary policy with consequent increases in nominal interest rates, there is no expectation of the kind of drastic anti-inflation policies that triggered the 1982 recession," the report said.

The GATT secretariat makes a preliminary assessment of the previous year's performance each February, and updates this in the summer when fuller trade data are available.

The GATT report said expanding trade was one of three factors benefitting the world economy. The others were moderate inflation in industrialised countries and strong growth in business investment.

Trade growth in 1988 was broadly-based, with increases of 10 per cent in deliveries of manufactured goods, seven per

cent in mining products and four per cent in farm produce.

It was also spread over a wide range of countries, ... particular industrialised nations and leading Third World traders. This contrasted with the 1984 trade boom, which was triggered largely by US import demand.

West Germany and the US were virtually level at the top of the table of the world's leading exporters, with shares of 11.4 per cent and 11.3 per cent respectively of 1988 world exports. Japan followed with 9.3 per cent, ahead of France's 5.9 per cent and Britain on 5.1 per cent.

The US remained by far the world's biggest importer with a share of 18.6 per cent, followed by West Germany 8.4 per cent, Britain 6.4 per cent, Japan 6.3 per cent and France 5.9 per cent.

Imports into the 13 member states of the Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), hit by lower oil prices and higher costs of manufactured goods, fell by an estimated 1.5 per cent.

Exports and imports of 15 heavily indebted developing countries, whose trade results are charted by the GATT secretariat, grew for the second successive year, bringing their aggregate trade surplus to nearly \$28 billion.

But the overall economic situation in these countries was still worsening, due to rising interest charges on their debts and continued lack of capital inflows, the GATT report said.

The 15 countries are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Government proposes ambitious 5-year development plan

Iran gives self-reliance priority in post-war reconstruction

BAHABAN DAM, Iran, Feb. 27. (AP): A hydroelectric dam under construction in southern Iran symbolises Tehran's ambitious post-war reconstruction programme and the debate over whether foreign companies should be brought in to help.

"We could have proceeded faster using imported high-technology equipment, but we preferred to save foreign exchange and use manual labour instead," said Bijan Saranjani, a young Iranian engineer on the site.

"We don't need outside help. We planned this dam ourselves and we're building it ourselves."

Even so, there clearly are limits to Iran's capabilities to cope with the reconstruction effort, which officials estimate will cost around \$400 billion, to repair the ravages of the eight-year war with Iraq. A ceasefire began last Aug. 20.

Tehran and other cities suffer power blackouts of at least six hours a day because of war damage to power stations.

Largest The 500-yard (metre)-long Bahabhan Dam on the Karun River, in a deep, narrow canyon 100 miles (160 kilometres) south-east of the oil capital of Ahwaz, will be one of the largest in Iran when it is completed.

It will cost \$1 billion, contribute to a major drive for industry to get back on its feet, and

help irrigate 50,000 hectares (125,000 acres) of arid countryside for Iran's badly neglected agricultural sector.

While the Bahabhan Dam's initial stages will be an all-Iran effort, the project will require considerable foreign exchange to buy hydroelectric generators which are not available in Iran.

"A government is currently negotiating the supply of this equipment with foreign governments," Saranjani said.

While the government bickers over whether revolutionary ideals will be subverted by the return of Westerners, who were booted out after the 1979 revolution, the country is bearing down to rebuild whole towns, oil installations, power stations, factories, railroads, highways and communication networks battered during the war.

Their eyes on a construction bonanza, officials and businessmen from Eastern and Western countries crowd Tehran hotels, vying for a piece of the action.

In February alone, Iran signed reconstruction agreements with West Germany, Turkey, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other East bloc countries, and is negotiating with many others.

North Korea, which acted as a conduit for Chinese-made arms for Iran during the war, is expected to be one of the main ben-

eficiaries.

The government has proposed an ambitious five-year development plan, giving priority to rebuilding the badly damaged oil industry, pillar of Iran's economy and its main foreign-exchange earner.

Ahmad Rahgozar, head of the state-run National Petrochemical Co., has said the plan calls for investing \$2.5 billion in petrochemical projects. He said 16 per cent of Iran's foreign exchange is being spent on petrochemical imports now.

Western correspondents taken on a government-conducted tour of the southwestern oil-rich Khuzestan province, captured by Iraq in the early days of the war and one of the worst-hit regions, saw intensive reconstruction activity everywhere.

Systems

Squads of young Revolutionary Guards and villagers are repairing roads, laying new oil pipelines and digging irrigation canals or repairing existing systems throughout the province.

In Ahwaz, nearby Susangerd and other towns, blacksmiths and carpenters work until late at night making doors and windows for new housing. The whole region has become a vast workshop.

A new settlement of neat yellow brick houses has been built next to the original town of Howehz, 37 miles (60

kilometres) northeast of Ahwaz, which was occupied and razed by Iraq.

Green and black mourning flags flutter in the wind over mounds of rubble and twisted steel beams.

"This is being preserved as a monument to remind future generations of Iraq's savagery," said Nader Tahvilidar, a official of the Reconstruction Ministry, which rebuilt Howehz.

More than 6,000 workers and specialists are working round the clock at the huge Abadan refinery, 75 miles (120 kilometres) south of Ahwaz, to get it back in partial operation by April 1. Nearly 200 of the refinery workers were killed during the war.

Capacity The refinery was the world's largest, with a capacity of 650,000 barrels a day, before the war. Rebuilding it has become a national crusade to demonstrate Iran's ability to restore its vital oil industry.

The plan is for an initial capacity of 130,000 barrels a day, increasing to some 250,000 barrels a day later.

Iranian officials said the much-bombed Kharg island oil terminal in the northern Gulf, 120 miles (190 kilometres) to the southeast, through which Iran exports 90 per cent of its oil, already is operating at full capacity.

The giant Soviet-built steel

mill in the central city of Isfahan is another top-priority reconstruction project. Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh said \$500 million will be spent on it by March 21, but stressed that Iran will rely on its own technical experts.

"Regarding some installations, we might use foreigners as technical advisers, but we will leave implementation entirely up to domestic forces," he told a recent news conference.

His comments reflected the dictum of Ayatollah Khomeini, who declared last month that those working to rebuild Iran should rely on God and not align themselves with foreign powers.

He warned Iranians that reconstruction will take years and that they should not expect overnight miracles.

At the root of the debate over foreign assistance is Iran's distrust of dependence on outsiders, who flooded the country under the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and became a symbol of his regime.

Western diplomats in Tehran, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iran is not averse to foreign help, provided it conformed with Khomeini's dictum to avoid dependence.

"Iran ideally wants to arrange barter deals, selling its oil and other exports in return for machinery, raw materials and expertise," one diplomat said.

Recession prospects ease

US economy expected to slow, says study

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27. (Agencies): The US economy is expected to slow significantly this year, but the chances of a recession in the next two years have eased slightly, according to a survey said today.

The National Association of Business Economists says a survey of its members found them slightly more optimistic about the economy's fortunes in 1989 than they were just three months ago.

However, three out of four of the economists still believe US President George Bush will have to deal with an economic downturn in the first two years of his presidency.

Decline That represented a decline from the 89 per cent who last November expected a recession by the end of 1990, and the number predicting a recession this year showed an even bigger drop — from 40 per cent three months ago to 19 per cent now.

But the belief that the current expansion, which has already lasted a peacetime record of six

years, will keep steaming ahead for two more years is still a minority view held by just one-fourth of the economists surveyed.

The median forecast for growth this year, as measured by the gross national product, was 2.7 per cent, up slightly from a 2.5 per cent estimate made three months ago.

That is still one-half percentage point lower than the Bush administration's estimate that the GNP will expand at the robust clip of 3.2 per cent in 1989.

Growth The administration is counting on faster growth to bring in more revenues and help it lower the budget deficit without the need to resort to higher taxes.

On the question of interest rates, another critical component of the budget deficit because of the cost of financing the \$2.7 trillion national debt, the business economists see short-term rates hitting a peak of 8.5 per cent this year and then beginning to decline to 7.8 per cent by the end of 1989.

The administration is forecast-

ing substantially lower rates for this year.

The survey was taken before the Federal Reserve boosted the discount rate on Friday to a three-year high of 7 per cent. An increase in the discount rate, the interest the Central Bank charges to make loans to commercial banks, is the most dramatic gesture the Fed can make to show its determination to push the cost of credit higher and dampen inflationary pressures.

The business economists expressed strong support for the Fed's inflation-fighting battle, with 70 per cent expecting the board to boost interest rates further in the next six months.

While expressing an urgent need for Congress and the administration to reach an agreement on a credible deficit reduction plan, the business economists generally supported Bush's stand against new taxes. Only about 15 per cent of those surveyed said they believed tax increases should be emphasised over cutting government spending.

Latin American debtors face uphill struggle on debt strategy

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 27. (Reuters): The big four Latin American debtor nations face an uphill struggle renegotiating their enormous debts with official creditors and private banks split on how far they should be helped.

Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela are simultaneously pressing to renegotiate their combined \$310-billion debt.

International banks have so far managed to space out debt talks, strengthening their negotiating stance, but at a summit last October Latin American presidents agreed to try to improve co-ordination of their efforts to win greater concessions.

"Crucial to the region's development in the next few years are debt negotiations which enable its economies to grow," Mexico's Private Sector

Economic Studies Centre said in a review of Latin America's prospects.

Although debtors hope for a breakthrough this year, it appears their plans for debt reduction, interest relief and new loans are not succeeding as they would wish.

"Perhaps expectations are building up too fast," said Yves Fortin, head of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank development committee.

Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe has been touring Europe to get support for sweeping debt concessions, which could become a blueprint for other debtors, but bankers say he is making scant progress.

Brazil has not yet asked its creditors to renew talks but says that its \$62-billion rescheduling last year is only a short-term

solution. Last month it was late on a payment, prompting fears of a new debt moratorium, and the government says new measures are needed.

Package Argentina has been unable to agree on an International Monetary Fund programme before May elections, leaving a commercial bank loan package in the air.

Venezuela has been forced by falling oil income to drop its opposition to an IMF agreement. Venezuelan officials are expected to fly to Washington next week to sign a letter of intent forming the basis of a \$4.5-billion long-term loan.

The fragility of agreements with Brazil and Venezuela places a new burden on banks, which are also being asked by Mexico for \$3 billion in new cash each year until 1994.

Scant lending last year meant Latin American debt fell \$9 billion, to \$401 billion. In 1989, Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina want at least \$7 billion from commercial banks. Brazil is waiting to receive loans agreed to last year.

Strategy Amid these problems, the US government is working on an updated policy statement on debt that should be presented to Congress shortly. Co-ordination of a strategy with other members of the powerful Group of Seven industrial nations is expected during the IMF spring meeting in Washington.

The US Treasury has become more active in the debt crisis, offering Mexico a \$3.5-billion bridge loan last October. But financial sources say Mexico turned it down because of conditions attached to drawing the money.

Venezuela's economy faces upheavals this year with inflation projected at a record 60 per cent. Officials say liquid foreign reserves have now run out, and the country desperately needs new loans to defend the bolivar against capital flight.

Negotiations But no quick conclusions are foreseen for Mexican and Venezuelan negotiations. Bankers say they face a hard year.

Venezuela's three-month freeze on payments of principal, which started Jan. 17, will probably be extended, while bankers and diplomats say it is highly unlikely Mexico will complete a deal by July as targeted.

By then, Argentina's new government will be pressing for a solution to its debt and Colombia may be forced to reschedule as banks will be reluctant to provide a \$1.7 billion loan.

World Business Summary

Chrysler to spend \$1b on new sport utility line

DETROIT, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Capitalising on growing consumer demand for jeeps, Chrysler Corp said yesterday it would spend \$1 billion to develop and build a new line of sport utility vehicles to be introduced in 1992. The announcement is the latest in a series of production ventures by the number three US car maker. Chrysler said the model, nicknamed the ZJ, would be built at its new Jefferson Avenue plant in Detroit. Construction on the plant, which will replace an ageing factory now at the site, is to begin in April. On Feb. 2 Chrysler and the French car maker Renault announced they would jointly build the small JJ sport utility vehicle at plants in Europe and North America. Two players earlier, Chrysler said it would market a version of the Sonata sedan produced by the Korean car maker Hyundai. Chrysler also will begin distributing Alfa Romeo vehicles built by Italy's Fiat starting late in 1989 or 1990. Sport utility vehicles, which include Chrysler's jeep line, the Bronco models built by Ford Motor Co and General Motors Corp's Chevrolet Blazer, are among the fastest selling vehicles in the US industry. Sales in the United States, which were 500,000 vehicles annually in the early 1980s, reached 933,988 in 1988. Chrysler recently began selling jeep models in Europe and company officials have said they plan to increase exports of the models to that market.

Arab contractors study reconstruction plans

BAGHDAD, Feb. 27. (AP): Arab contractors and engineers toured the southern border cities of Basra and Faw yesterday to study reconstruction plans for the cities that were heavily damaged in the war with Iran, officials reported. The visit came two days after President Saddam Hussein visited the cities and criticised the slow pace of the rebuilding. Last week, he ordered the formation of a special committee to supervise the reconstruction of Basra, for which \$5 billion has been allocated. The Arab contractors reviewed plans by the Ministry of Housing and Construction for rebuilding Faw and Basra. A member of the Iraqi Contractors' Federation said the Arab businessmen were also studying ways to finance other reconstruction projects in both cities. Faw, a oil terminal centre before the war broke out in September 1980, was largely devastated after it was captured by the Iranians in February 1986. The Iraqis drove them back across the Shatt Al Arab waterway in April last year. Basra, Iraq's main Gulf port and its second largest city before the war, was badly battered by Iranian artillery and rocket fire in a sustained offensive to capture it before the August 20 ceasefire.

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Father

May his soul rest in peace

International School of Pakistan

Admission forms for K.G. and other classes can be obtained from the school office from 1.3.1989 up to 8.3.1989 during school hours. Admission forms duly filled should be deposited in the office by March 12, 1989.

The following is the examination schedule for K.G. and other classes.

1. K.G. classes 26th and 27th March '89
2. Other classes 28th March '89

(Syed Taslim Akbar) Principal



Kuwait University
Al-Khwarizmi Programme
For Personal Computer Training and Programming
A newly-established unit of the Personal Computer Programme

REQUIRES

1. A full-time Editor
 - Graduate of English Literature or Linguistics.
 - Capable of independently generating English/Arabic reports and documents related to Computers.
 - Extensive experience and thorough knowledge of publication, editing and production procedures.
2. A part time Proof-Reader
 - Sound knowledge of English is essential. Arabic is an advantage.
 - 2-3 years' experience in proof-reading English/Arabic documents.
 - Working hours to be arranged.
3. A part time Graphic Designer
 - Strong experience in designing publications such as books, books covers, brochures, posters, etc.
 - Working hours to be arranged.

Application forms are available at the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research, Kuwait University — Khaldiya, Building 2K between (9.00 am - 12.00 noon). Closing date for receipt of applications is 08.03.1989. For further information call: 4842683-4838362

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1989

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	INT	INCHCAPE	219/0
ABBEY LFE	312/0	LADRO	260/0	
ADT LTD	143/0	LADRO	306/0	
ALD LYONS	467/0	LADRO	520/0	
ANSTRAD	147/0	LADRO	564/0	
ARGYLE GP	178/0	LADRO	400/0	
ASDA GP	144/4	LADRO	460/0	
BAA	301/0	LADRO	325/0	
BTR	348/0	LADRO	336/0	
BAT INDS	329/0	LADRO	296/0	
BARCLAYS	439/0	LADRO	160/0	
BASS	945/0	LADRO	204/0	
BEAZER	262/0	LADRO	283/0	
BEECHANS	558/0	LADRO	551/0	
BERSFORD	158.5	LADRO	434/0	
BTC PLC	435.0	LADRO	290.0	
BLUE ARW	88/6	LADRO	667/0	
BLUE CIRC	573/0	LADRO	408.0	
BOC GP	477.0	LADRO	698/0	
BOOTS CO	251/0	LADRO	226/0	
BPB INDS	243/0	LADRO	252/0	
BR COMM	223/0	LADRO	346/0	
BR AIRWAY	186.0	LADRO	277.0	
BR AEROSP	502/0	LADRO	370/0	
BR GAS RG	165/0	LADRO	370/0	
BR LAND	342/0	LADRO	370/0	
B.P.	156.0	LADRO	370/0	
B.P. PP	262.0	LADRO	370/0	
BR STEEL	77.75	LADRO	370/0	
BR TELCOM	267.0	LADRO	370/0	
BURMAN OL	536/0	LADRO	370/0	
BURTON	196.0	LADRO	370/0	
CABLEWIR	416/0	LADRO	370/0	
CABLEWIR	342/0	LADRO	370/0	
CALOR GRP	379/0	LADRO	370/0	
CLITH CO	858/0	LADRO	370/0	
COOKSON	304/0	LADRO	370/0	
COURTAULD	298.0	LADRO	370/0	
DALGETY	353.0	LADRO	370/0	
DIXONS	154/0	LADRO	370/0	
ENR CHINA	534/0	LADRO	370/0	
ENTER OIL	172/0	LADRO	370/0	
FBI BARCK	172/0	LADRO	370/0	
FERRANTI	172/0	LADRO	370/0	
FISONS	275/0	LADRO	370/0	
GATEWAY	163/0	LADRO	370/0	
GEN ACCID	920/0	LADRO	370/0	
GEN ELEC	228/0	LADRO	370/0	
GLAXO	228/0	LADRO	370/0	
GRANADA	342/0	LADRO	370/0	
GLOBE	161/4	LADRO	370/0	
GLYNED	315/0	LADRO	370/0	
GUARD RYL	206/0	LADRO	370/0	
GUINNESS	402/0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	776/0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	173/4	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	728.0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	671.0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	241.0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	273.0	LADRO	370/0	
HARRISON	162/0	LADRO	370/0	

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	848/0	834/0
600 GROUP	123/0	121/0
A.AMER TS	415/0	411/0
A.S.W.HLD	232/0	231/0
AAR KENT	89/0	88/0
AAR HLD	406/0	405/0
AAR HLD	122/0	120/0
ADDISON	28/4	29/0
ADVEST	168/0	168/0
ALEX JENK	185/0	185/0
ALEXON	367/0	364/0
ALLD COLL	136/0	134/0
ALLD IR B	280/0	278/0
ALLD LDM	142/0	141/0
ALLD PART	74/0	74/0
ALLIANCE	966/0	962/0
AMBER DAY	47/0	47/0
AMEC	411/0	408/0
AMER TST	129/4	128/4
AMERSHAM	528/0	524/0
AMT HLTHC	333/0	333/0
ANGIA TV	268/0	265/0
ANSCHACH	77/0	78/0
APPLYARD	445/0	443/0
APV PLC	113/0	112/0
ARMY LA	115/4	115/4
AUS REE A	254/0	257/0
AUST REED	388/0	390/0
AUTO SECS	260/0	263/0
AVDEL PCP	99/4	99/0
AVESCO	133/0	133/0
AVIS EUR	373/0	373/0
AVON RUBB	634/0	630/0
B.WEMILL	235/0	235/0
BAILL JAP	532/0	528/0
BAILL SHI	97/0	96/0
BALFOUR	240/0	240/0
BANK IRE	270/0	273/0
BANDON CP	154/0	154/0
BART DEV	195/0	192/0
BATHNES C	27/0	27/0
BBA GROUP	198/4	198/0
BEAR BRND	11/0	11/0
BEATTIE J	165/0	165/0
BEJAM GP	194/0	194/0
BEHAVEN	50/4	51/0
BELWAY	238/0	236/0
BERKESE	236/0	236/0
BENLOX	59/0	59/0
BERKELEY	237/0	237/0
BHK GROUP	114/0	114/0
BH OF SCO	96/0	96/0
BLCK LE 2	11/6	11/4
BH GROUP	424/0	423/0
BNETT + F	125/0	125/0
BOASE MAS	243/4	243/0
BOODINGTN	178/0	178/0
BOOD SHOP	550/0	546/0
BOOT HENR	445/0	450/0

BORTHWICK

BR ARROW	44/0	44/0
BR ARROW	117/0	116/0
BR ARROW	78/6	77/4
BR DRESSI	169/0	159/0
BR VITA	249/0	246/0
BREIT CHE	149/0	146/0
BREIT WKR	347/0	346/0
BRIDON	195/0	193/0
BRITANN SE	193/0	193/0
BRITANNIC	385/0	382/0
BRIXTON E	405/0	400/0
BROWN SHI	348/0	350/0
BRYANT GP	128/0	126/0
BSG INTL	76/4	77/0
BUDGENS	121/0	120/0
BULLOUGH	502/0	500/0
BULMER NP	168/0	165/0
CATRO GRP	405/0	405/0
CALEDONIA	387/0	385/0
CAMB ELEC	249/0	248/0
CANFOR E	239/0	236/0
CANNING W	258/0	254/0
CANNON ST	290/0	291/0
CAP-RADIO	685/0	685/0
CARADON	373/0	372/0
CARLICO EN	149/0	149/0
CATTLE HO	68/0	68/0
CAULDON	10/4	10/4
CENT TV	718/0	718/0
CHAM PHIR	217/0	215/0
CHARTERMA	26/2	25/4
CHAS CHUR	107/0	103/0
CHLORIDE	58/0	57/0
CHRISTIES	738/0	735/0
CI GROUP	51/0	51/0
CINTEL SEC	57/4	57/4
CNTRY OIL	188/0	188/0
COALITE	388/0	385/0
COATES BR	324/0	325/0
COLLINS A	731/0	732/0
COLLINS W	885/0	885/0
COMPAR GR	158/0	157/0
COMWELLS	260/0	255/0
COOPER F	176/0	175/0
COURTAIN	331/0	328/0
COURTS FR	187/0	185/0
COVIE (T)	139/0	138/0
CRH	163/0	164/0
CRODA INT	201/0	199/0
CRYSTALAT	161/0	162/0
CTRY PRO	295/0	292/0
DARES EST	33/6	33/6
DAVIS GO	177/0	178/0
DAVY CORP	216/0	215/0
DAVSON GP	195/0	194/0
DELTA GRP	315/0	313/0
DEVENISH	339/0	335/0
DEWINTER	41/0	41/0
DIPLOMA	222/0	222/0
DOBSON PK	101/0	101/0
DOUGLASS	74/0	74/0
DOVITY GRP	260/0	259/0
DUNTON C	526/0	521/0
DRG	465/0	465/0
DUKENISTR	72/0	71/0
DUNDEE LD	305/0	305/0
DUNWILL	245/0	245/0
EAGLE TST	16/4	16/2
EDIN I.T	183/4	183/0
EDMOND HD	41/4	41/0
ELECTRA	260/0	258/0
ELECTROCM	204/0	203/0
EMAP	248/0	248/0
EMPIRE ST	208/0	206/0
ERA GROUP	54/0	53/0
EURO-HOME	279/0	275/0
EUTHERM	468/0	468/0
EUTRINT	786/0	785/0
EUTRINT W	73/0	73/0
EVODE GRP	191/0	182/0
EX.CO.LOU	135/0	135/0
EXPANET	198/0	197/0
F&C ENTER	31/0	30/4
F&C EURO	244/0	241/0
F&C PACIF	162/0	160/0
F&C SAILR	76/0	76/0
F&C SAILR	155/0	154/0
F&C SAILR	277/0	276/0
F&C SAILR	191/0	191/0
F&C SAILR	280/0	281/0
FINLAN GP	89/0	90/0
FOR SCOL	128/0	125/4
FRODHO	287/0	287/0
FRONHORE	504/0	502/0
GALLIFORD	82/0	83/0
GARDNER	51/0	50/0
GEEST	271/0	270/0
GEI INTL	128/0	129/0
GERBODAT	288/0	285/0
GESTETNER	274/0	272/0
GOODE DUR	115/0	117/0
GRP	42/0	43/0
GRANUP HD	318/0	319/0
GREEN KNG	591/0	585/0
GREENL W	328/0	327/0
GREYCAT	457/0	451/0
GRUP TV A	63/0	62/0
GT PRITLD	390/0	387/0
GUINNESS M	128/0	128/0
GUS ORD	650/0	650/0
GVTT ORIE	371/0	368/0
GVTT STR	248/0	245/0
H&ND DIS	174/0	170/0
HALMA	217/0	216/0
HAMBROS I	246/0	244/0
HAMBROS I	862/0	850/0
HARTIN LE	56/4	56/4
HAZELWOOD	257/0	257/0
HEAT(RICE)	445/0	444/0
HELENE PL	34/4	34/4
HELICAL B	304/0	303/0
HEPMORTH	279/0	277/0
HESTAIR	268/0	268/0
HEYWOOD W	306/0	306/0

HICKS IN

HIGGS HIL	242/0	242/0
HIGGS HIL	167/0	167/0
HIGGS HIL	113/0	113/0
HIGGS HIL	153/4	153/4
HIGGS HIL	95/0	95/0
HIGGS HIL	118/0	118/0
ICE.FZ.FD	330/0	330/0
JERRY M.W.	426/0	426/0
JIMPOST P.	15/0	15/0
JONDO PLC	34/0	34/0
INT.BU.CH	134/0	134/0
INT.ITU	79.0	79.0
JONASFRS	55/6	55/6
JOE RUGGS	137/0	137/0
KALAMAZOO	42/0	42/0
KALON RGP	36/4	36/4
KELT ENRG	57/0	57/0
KELT ENRG	41/0	41/0
KLURY O'S	138/0	138/0
KLURY O'S	142/4	142/4
KLURY SML	171/0	171/0
KWIK-SAVE	418/0	418/0
KWIK-FIT	110/0	110/0
LATING 'A'	343/0	343/0
LATING RPD	343/0	343/0
LATING RPD	489/0	488/0
LAURINE W	260/0	259/0
LDN & NET	139/0	138/0
LDN ATLAN	293/0	293/0
LDN INTL	239/0	239/0
LDN LDO	132/0	132/0
LDNEDIN	133/0	133/0
LEP GROUP	170/0	170/0
LES SERVC	371.0	366.0
LEIS F.CE	65/0	65/0
LILLEY PJ	64/0	64/0
LILLEY PJ	208/0	208/0
LOCAL LND	546.0	546.0
LOGICA	402/0	402/0
LOWELL NO	273/0	273/0
LOW (WR)	286/0	286/0
LOWBOMBER	257/0	255/0
M&G GROUP	319/0	319/0
M.C.PACIF	221/0	221/0
M&G GROUP	254/0	254/0
M&G GROUP	208/0	208/0
M&G GROUP	89/0	89/0
MAJEDIE	235/0	235/0
MAJEDIE	210/0	211/0
MAJEDIE	175/0	175/0
MAJEDIE	83/0	83/0
MAJEDIE	104/0	105/0
MAJEDIE	327/0	326/0
MAJEDIE	228/0	228/0
MAJEDIE	320/0	320/0
MAJEDIE	174/4	174/4
MAJEDIE	202/0	201/0
MAJEDIE	88/0	88/0
MAJEDIE	433/0	430/0
MAJEDIE	233/0	233/0
MAJEDIE	125/0	125/0
MAJEDIE	161/0	161/0
MAJEDIE	242/0	242/0
MAJEDIE	295/0	295/0
MAJEDIE	705/0	705/0
MAJEDIE	160/0	158/0
MAJEDIE	434/0	430/0
MAJEDIE	204/0	202/4
MAJEDIE	207/4	206/4
MAJEDIE	131/0	133/0
MAJEDIE	401/0	401/0
MAJEDIE	134/0	134/0
MAJEDIE	910/0	910/0
MAJEDIE	337/0	335/0
MAJEDIE	33/0	33/0
MAJEDIE	61/0	61/0
MAJEDIE	220/0	220/0
MAJEDIE	83/0	82/0
MAJEDIE	185/0	185/0
MAJEDIE	205/0	205/0
MAJEDIE	287/0	287/0
MAJEDIE	15/0	16/0
MAJEDIE	21/0	21/0

International Bond Highlights

JAKARTA: President Suharto said the weakening dollar will increase Indonesia's debt service in the next fiscal year but ruled out a debt rescheduling. (XLEV 1104)

Tokyo: The Export-Import Bank Japan may extend joint loans with the International Monetary Fund to either Mexico or the Philippines, President Takashi Tanaka was quoted by a bank official as saying. (XLFIR 1133)

Caracas: Venezuela's cabinet will consider on Wednesday whether the country should suspend interest payments to private foreign banks, central bank spokesman Hugo Lopez said. (XLHG 1512)

London: Three equity warrant bonds for Japanese issuers were launched. Nitto Electrical Industrial Co. Ltd has a 150 min dir issue maturing March 16, 1993 and with an indicated coupon of 4-5/8 pct, lead manager Nomura International said. (XLEG 1059) Daiwa Europe Ltd was lead manager for both the Nikken Chemicals Co. Ltd 100 min dir, four year, warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon of 4-5/8 pct (XLDH 0944), and Tokyo Land Corp's issue of a 300 min dir, four year, warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon of 4-1/2 pct. (XLDG 0933)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 11-7/8 5/8	13 12-7/8	13-7/16 5/16
FFY 5.95/6.05	6.20/30	6.65/75
PAR 8-15/16 9-1/16	9-7/16 9/16	9-5/8 3/4
ZUR 4-7/8 5-1/8	5-3/4 6	6-1/4
BRX 3.10	8-3/16 5/16	8-1/2 5/8
ROM 11-7/8 12-3/8	12 12-1/2	12-1/4 12-3/4
AMS 6.68/61	6.90/00	7.08/18
TOK FOUR 2/32	4.19/32 21/32	4.20/32 22/32
EDU 8.31 8.56	8.68 8.81	9.06 9.18

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-3/16	8-5/8
3 months	8-3/16	8-5/8
6 months	8-3/16	8-5/8
1 year	8-3/16	8-5/8

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	91.50	92.50	92 NICO	600	610
ACC 314	314.50	309	GRASIN	99	99	97.50	792.50	800
ASIA PAINT 213.75	210	211.25	GSFC	132.50	135	132.50	27	27.50
BAIJ AUTO 382.50	382.50	382.50	HIND LEVER	75.50	74	75	22	21.50
BAIJ RAYON 120	121	120	HINDALCO	196	194	194	76	77
BOM. OYING 121	123	120	HINDCOBA	108.75	108.75	110	PRE-AUTO	45
BR. BOND 118	118	121	HINDOTRAC	31	31.25	30.50	RAYMOND	74
DISE INDEX 661.87	671.57	671.57	IND ORG	36	36.50	35.50	RELIANCE	141
JENTURYSPG 1565	1565	1560	INDRATON	87	86.50	88	SIEMENS	84
DOLGATE 331.25	330	325	INDROL	297.50	298.75	287.50	SPIC	45
HEPAKFEET 36	36	36.50	ITC	52	50	52	STDMILLS	245
EL. HOTEL 59	59	59	JKSYNTH	79	81	79	TATA PWR	365
ESKAYEF 137.50	136.25	136.25	L AND T	103	103	102	TATACHEN	114
ESSAR 23.50	23.50	24.25	NAHINDRA	94	96.50	93.50	TELCO	766.25
SAR. POLY 76.25	76.25	76.25	MASTERSHR	16.75	18.25	17.50	TISCO	1226
SE. SHIP 38	38.75	38.15	MATHER PL	52	52	52	VOLTA	590

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
REG 210.2	214.1	
ALLIANZ VR 1730.0	1747.0	
BADENWERK 189.0	189.0	
BASF 281.0	282.7	
BAYER 291.0	292.8	
BAYER HYP 352.5	357.0	
BAYER VER 362.0	371.0	
BBC 459.5	464.8	
BNF 461.0	465.0	
BNW 500.0	503.0	
COMMERZBK 234.2	236.0	
CONTI GUMM 236.5	238.9	
DAIER BEN 645.5	653.5	
DEUTSCH BANK 502.0	507.5	
ELW 465.0	468.0	
DRESNER B 303.3	304.0	
DT. BAROCK 168.0	168.5	
FAZ INDEX 535.78	541.96	
FEINMECHANIK 302.0	308.0	
GOLDSTEIN 380.0	380.0	
HOFMEIER 469.2	478.0	
HOECHST AG 292.2	292.5	
HOFER 204.7	206.5	
HORTEN 221.0	225.0	
HUSSEL WLD 450.0	457.0	
JAL SALZ 193.0	195.0	
JARSTADT 421.0	421.0	
KAUFHOFF 404.0	415.5	
KLOECK H 165.0	166.2	
KLOECK W 151.0	152.0	
INDE 765.0	770.0	
JOHANNES 162.5	162.0	
LAN 241.3	245.0	
LANESSAN 208.0	209.0	
MERCEDES 516.0	518.5	
METALLGES 375.0	380.0	
MTX DORF PF 309.8	312.0	
NORSK HYD 40.40	41.20	
PHILIP KON 647.0	656.0	
ROSCHE 688.0	710.0	
REUSSAG 243.0	242.0	
MA 274.0	275.0	
HEINMETAL 420.0	423.0	
NE 233.0	239.0	
NE P 213.5	217.5	
ALAMANDER 326.0	331.0	
CHERING 611.0	619.0	
IEL 287.0	289.0	
TIENES 504.5	511.5	
WYSEN 206.0	208.3	
ARTA 280.0	284.0	
ESA 170.0	170.0	
OLKSNAGEN 316.0	316.5	

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
H TUNNEL 15.20	15.30	
HUNG K 10.20	10.40	
HINA GAS 18.70	19.00	
HINA L-P 14.50	14.60	
HINA MOTR 26.60	27.10	
OSMO PROP 3.80	3.80	
VERGO IND 3.62	3.70	
AR EAST C 99	1.02	
EN ORIENT 0	44.00	
C DEVELOP 9.45	9.55	
S INDEX 64.18	64.84	
ANG LUNG 6.15	6.30	
ANG SENG 32.25	32.75	
AM PAR BR 11.60	11.60	
K ELEC CO 7.50	7.60	
K KONGLOM 10.80	11.00	
K LAND CO 11.20	11.30	
K SHAN BK 7.30	7.40	
K SHAN BK 6.15	6.25	
K TEL CO 5.25	5.35	
UTCH WHAM 10.60	10.90	
ND EO PAC 11.50	11.50	
ADLINE M 18.50	19.30	
EWORLD 9.20	9.50	
AUL Y CON 1.52	1.57	
EALTY DEV 7.70	7.70	
N K CO 2.90	3.00	
N K PROP 14.60	14.90	
INE DARY 2.92	3.00	
INE HFG 3.35	3.40	
JIRE PAC 21.10	21.50	
V B CO 5.35	5.35	
NI CHEUNG 4.97	5.10	
NIOM BANK 1.88	1.86	
LOCK HAD 0	7.25	
LOCK WAT 0	1.15	
WLD INTL 5.00	5.10	

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLOSE
AJINOMOTO 2700	2700	
AKAI ELEC 710	700	
AKI 1340	1370	
ASAHI GLS 1950	1920	
ASAHI OPT 800	784	
BANK TOKYO 1690	1690	
BRIDGESTON 1380	1380	
CANON 1500	1460	
CASIO COMP 1440	1390	
CHUGAI PHM 1460	1470	
CITIZEN W 973	955	
D-ICHI KAN 3600	3710	
DAI NIP IK 921	943	
DAI NIP PT 2500	2540	
DAI NIP SC 995	966	
DAI NIP TO 944	922	
DAICEL 892.0	890.0	
DAIWA H 1970	2000	
DAIWA SEC 2980.0	2990.0	
DAIWA WFG 2400.0	2410.0	
EBI 1970	1970	
FUJITSU 1690	1690	
FUJITSU 3630	3650	
FUJITSU PHOTO 3240	3320	
FUJITSU 1590	1650	
FUJITSU CP 1480	1520	
HITACHI 1640	1640	
HONDA MOT 1980	1990	
ISETAN 2600	2400	
ITO YOKADO 3610	3740	
JAP SYN R 1140	1170	
JAPAN AIR 16200	16500	
JAPAN MET 922	956	
KAJIMA 2230	2320	
KANSAI EL 5050	5250	
KAO SOAP 1590	1590	
KAWASAKI H 920	945	
KAWASAKI S 975	985	
KIRIN BEV 1860	1890	
KONATSU 1290	1330	
KUBOTA LTD 1010	985	
KYOCERA 4710	4690	
MAKITA EL 1510	1550	
MARUI 2700	2730	
MATSUBA EL 2360	2360	
MATSUBA EL 0	2660	
MEIJI SEIK 980	990	
MITSUB CP 1680	1710	
MITSUB EL 1160	1170	
MITSUB EST 2780	2830	
MITSUB HWY 1190	1210	
MITSUBI CO 1270	1290	
MITSUBUSHI 2410	2420	
MITSUBI EL 1000	983	
NICHICON 1320	1300	
NINON CHMT 1210	1230	
NIKKO SEC 2110	2160	
NIP ELEC 1860	1850	
NIP KOKKAN 985	1000	
NIP OIL 1840	1830	
NIP STEEL 969	975	
NIP YUSEN 932	945	
NIS MOTOR 1500	1500	
NOMURA SEC 3940	3980	
ONDA CO 945	927	
OLYMPUS 1170	1170	
PENTA OCH 1200	1220	
PIONEER 3050	3050	
SHIMADZU 1315	1315	
SHIMADZU 1130	1140	
SAKUYO 2170	2160	
SANKYO 868	855	
SANYO ELEC 2350	2350	
SEIYU ST 1830	1900	
SEKISUI PB 1170	1180	
SHARP 1680	1700	
SHISEIDO 6990	6940	
SUNITON 1440	1460	
TAISEI 1700	1770	
TAISHO MKN 1520	1550	
TAKEDA CH 2320	2320	
TEIJIN 830	835	
TKO NEW IX 468.97	487.24	
TOKIO HRN 2400	2400	
TOKYO ELEC 1290	1300	
TOKYO GAS 1230	1260	
TOKYO POWR 7100	7280	
TORAY IND 940	950	
TOSHIBA EL 1270	1260	
TOTO 2080	2080	
TOYO KOGY 879	869	
TOYOTA MOT 2540	2560	
YAMAHA 1440	1420	
YAMAICHI 2040	2090	
YAMAMOTO 3510	3500	
YAMAZAKI 1490	1460	

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE DOWN AFTER HITTING RECORD HIGH. TOKYO, FEB 27, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER. AN EARLIER RISE TO A NEW TRADED HIGH, DESPITE A SHARP DROP IN WALL STREET PRICES ON FRIDAY AFTER THE FEDERAL RESERVE RAISED THE DISCOUNT RATE A HALF-POINT, PROMPTED INVESTORS TO TAKE PROFITS ACROSS A BROAD FRONT, BROKERS SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX WAS DOWN 166.72 POINTS, OR 0.51 PCT, AT THE CLOSE TO 32,285.77 AFTER RISING 145.41 TO A NEW TRADED HIGH OF 32,597.90 IN EARLY AFTERNOON TRADE.

THE NIKKEI ROSE 140.56 POINTS TO A RECORD CLOSING 32,452.49 POINTS ON THURSDAY, WHEN IT ALSO HIT THE PREVIOUS TRADED HIGH OF 32,508.61.

"THE MARKET WAS GETTING A LITTLE OVERHEATED. WE EXPECTED IT TO GO DOWN FROM THE START AND IT DID, BUT THEN THERE WAS BUYING," SAID CASSEY FLAHERTY, A TRADER AT YAMACHU SECURITIES CO. LTD.

THE OR (OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE) WAS HIKED AND THIS GIVES PEOPLE AN INCENTIVE TO TAKE PROFITS ON LAST WEEK'S STRENGTH. TECHNICALLY, IT WAS A GOOD TIME TO TAKE PROFITS," HE SAID.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE RAISED THE OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE HALF A POINT TO SEVEN PCT ON FRIDAY, BUT THE DOLLAR/YEN RATE WAS LITTLE CHANGED, WHICH SPURRED BUYING. JAPAN IS NOT EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT WITH A SIMILAR RISE, BROKERS SAID.

THE MARKET WAS CLOSED ON FRIDAY FOR THE FUNERAL OF EMPEROR HIROHITO.

THE BROADER FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, FELL 18.27 POINTS TO 2,468.97 AFTER RISING 15.20 ON THURSDAY.

FALLS LED RISES BY ABOUT EIGHT TO FIVE WITH 577 ISSUES LOWER, 351 ISSUES HIGHER AND 160 UNCHANGED IN LIGHT TURNOVER OF 1.1 BILLION SHARES AGAINST TWO BILLION ON THURSDAY.

DECLINES WERE LED BY REAL ESTATE, SECURITIES HOUSE, RAILWAY/BUS, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, CONSTRUCTION, WAREHOUSE, SHIPBUILDING, PHARMACEUTICAL, ROLLING STOCK AND AIRLINE SHARES.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, FEB 27, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED SHARPLY LOWER FOLLOWING WALL STREET'S LEAD, WHERE PRICES OF BLUE CHIPS FELL ON THE U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE'S DISCOUNT RATE HIKE LAST FRIDAY, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX RECOUPED PARTS OF ITS MORNING LOSSES BY ENDING 50.05 POINTS, OR 1.61 PCT, LOWER AT 3,064.18. IT DROPPED 66 POINTS IN LATE MORNING TRADE. THE BROADER-BASED HONG KONG INDEX FELL 33.11 TO 2,024.75.

"THE MARKET WAS QUITE NERVOUS AND INVESTORS WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN ON WALL STREET TONIGHT," A BROKER WITH A MAJOR U.S. HOUSE SAID.

AMMAN

	OPNG	CLSE	JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.71	2.71
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.88	1.87	JOR PAPER CARDBROG	3.95	3.95
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	2.18	2.17	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.82	3.82
ARAB BANK	157.5	156.5	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.88	1.88
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.35	4.40	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.73	1.73
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
ARAB INSURANCE	1.11	1.11	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.11	1.10
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.57	0.57	JOR SECURITY CORP.	1.12	1.11
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.25	1.23	JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.98	2.98
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.75	0.75	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.69	1.75
ARAB JOR INVST/BK	2.35	2.35	JOR WORSTED MLL	5.60	5.60
ARAB PAPER CO/TRD	0.41	0.40	JOR. KUWAIT AGR	1.00	0.97
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.	3.28	3.31	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	8.74	8.72
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75	JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	2.67	2.68
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JORDANIAN GULF REAL	0.39	0.38
BANK OF JORDAN	15.65	15.75	JORDAN DAIRY	1.00	1.01
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF BANK	1.30	1.30
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	31.00	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN INSURANCE	3.87	3.82
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.60	0.62	JORDAN ISLAMIC BKK	2.10	2.10
DAR ALDAHA DV/INV.	2.46	2.44	JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.48	1.47
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.84	0.83	JORDAN TANNING	1.00	1.00
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71	LEVIS/TOUPOULTRY	0.74	0.75
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.55	4.55	HACH/EGYPT/PAINT	0.80	0.75
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	HAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.30	1.35	MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
GENERAL MINING.	1.95	2.05	MIDDEL EAST INS.	0.80	0.80
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.75	0.75	MIDDEL EAST INS.	0.80	0.80
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.75
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.75	0.74	NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	2.10	2.10
INDSTR. DEVLPT BKK	1.65	1.70	NAT./CABEL/HAF/MEF	1.62	1.60
INDSTR./COMM/AGR.	1.61	1.59	NATIONAL AHIA INS	1.50	1.57
INDSTR. INVEST.	0.75	0.75	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.92	0.97
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13	0.13	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	1.00	1.00
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.91	0.91	NATIONAL STEEL	3.06	3.06
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
INTERMED/PETRI/CH	1.72	1.69	PETRA BANK	2.30	2.62
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.65	0.65
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.16	1.18
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.45	1.52
JOR CERAMIC FACT	2.08	2.07	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.67	0.67
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	SHIPPING LINES	1.15	1.15
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.71	1.71	SHIPPING SPEC.	1.17	1.17
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	THE HOUSING BANK	1.97	1.91
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.08	1.08	UNITED INSURANCE	1.25	1.20
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	UNIVERSAL CHEM.IND	3.16	3.12
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.80	2.80	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	YAMOUK INDUSTRIES	1.02	1.02
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83	YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.37	1.38

Dollar slips

European stocks retreat on rate fears

LONDON, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Major European stock markets slumped today as financial markets braced for another possible round of interest rate rises this week.

British shares closed more than 20 points down. French shares were 1.75 per cent off while Swiss shares fell 2.1 per cent to close at the lowest level of the year.

Wall Street clawed back early losses. The Dow Jones industrial average was up about one point at 2,346 points by midday after dropping 79 points last week.

Tighter credit normally boosts the dollar as speculative money flows from stocks to bank accounts for higher returns, but today the dollar weakened.

Slumped
Britain's pound sterling also slumped despite the prospect of an increase in interest rates. Dealers said that now higher rates were no guarantee of currency strength.

"There is a growing realisation by markets that ... rising interest

rates are a consequence of economic problems ... which point to currency weakness," said London-based broker Midland Montagu in its latest currency report.

It singled out economic problems as accelerating inflation and trade deficits.

The dollar ended at 1.8170 West German marks and 126.55 yen in London compared with 1.8240 and 126.30 on Friday night.

Sterling closed almost three pence weaker in Frankfurt at 3.170 to 3.173 marks after ending last week at 3.199 to 3.202. This was despite sterling purchases by the Bank of England to support the pound on currency markets.

Critical
Dealers said the 3.17 support level was critical for its short-term future, but that much would depend on Wednesday's British trade and current account figures. A wide deficit could prompt a rise in British interest rates, dealers said.

Dealers said the mark's stren-

gth was unlikely to prevent the Bundesbank raising interest rates at its Thursday meeting. Gold trading remained quiet in Europe with dealers generally looking to US markets for direction. Bullion was set at \$390.60 an ounce in the London price fixing compared to a previous close of \$389.75.

Quiet

Oil business was quiet. North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude, firmed a shade to around \$16.50 a barrel for April delivery, from 16.15 on Friday. The benchmark US Treasury 30-year bond was quoted in London around 97.20/32 per cent, yielding 9.23 per cent.

On Friday, Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average closed 43.92 points lower at 2,346.54 after the Federal Reserve (Central Bank) raised the discount rate, at which it lends short-term to banks, to seven per cent from 6.5 per cent.

Earlier today, Tokyo shares closed lower as investors took

their profits from an early surge. The Nikkei average was down 166.72 points, or 0.51 per cent, at the close to 32,385.77.

Wall Street's decline took stocks sharply lower in Hong Kong and Sydney.

Currency dealers in London said the Fed's tightening of US interest rates was too little, too late and the markets were already looking for the next round of European rate rises.

Decline

In London, the FTSE 100 share index back its losses even further in the run up to the 1700 GMT official close as Wall Street turned its early small fall into a modest gain. By the close, the FTSE 100 share index was down 22.8 points to 1,996.7. Turnover in leading shares was 413.8 million for the day.

A number of leading shares were quoted ex-dividend today, which added significantly to today's decline. BP fell 12p to 261, Rank Organisation 25p to 874, Midland 21p to 433, Nat-

west 24p to 569 and Grand Met 15p to 516, all ex-dividend.

Cons Gold was down 17p to 1,443, also ex-dividend and responding to news there would be no full cash alternative to Minorco's £3.2 billion renewed, hostile bid.

Dealers have said Minorco's offer would be more attractive to Cons Gold shareholders if a higher cash element were involved. Minorco today published its formal offer document. Cons Gold has two weeks to publish its defence document.

Brewer Scottish and Newcastle moved strongly against the trend to rise 14p to 443 on continuing speculation the hostile £1.6 billion bid from Australia's Elders IXL will be given the go ahead by the Monopolies Commission.

The commission's report is due to go to Britain's Trade Department early in March and is likely to be published, along with the results of another investigation into the UK beer industry, by mid-to-late March.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD market remains subdued

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on last week opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly easier against the dollar ending the week at 287.70 fils compared with its week before last closing of 287.20 fils.

The KD was firmer against the pound sterling, ending the week at 504.28 fils compared with its week before last closing of 508.94 fils.

The KD was easier against the mark ending the week at 156.97 fils compared with its week before last closing of 155.79 fils.

The KD was slightly easier against Swiss franc ending the week at 183.95 fils compared with its week before last closing at 183.63 fils.

The KD was also slightly easier against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 534.76 fils compared with its week before last closing at 533.82 fils, and remained almost unchanged against other GCC currencies.

The KD money market especially short-dated eased over the week, as compared to the previous week rate as end of month salaries created more liquidity in the market.

World stocks

Wall Street stock prices moved lower over last week, falling on news of a higher than expected US consumer price rise in January and dropping sharply further, hurt by rising interest rates which were forced up by the discount rate rise, thus making interest bearing investment instruments more attractive than stocks.

The climbing interest rates also raised fears that the Fed may have tightened monetary policy too far, forcing the economy to slide into a recession later this year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2326 and closed sharply lower at 2246, about the same level the market index closed at, on the Friday before the market crash, Monday, October 19, 1987, recording a sharp loss of 79 points over the previous week's closing of 2325.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange firmed earlier in the week, helped by UK January sterling M4 bank and building society lending which pointed to a slowdown in consumer demand, but ended the week lower after Wall Street slumped in response to US discount and prime rate hikes.

The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2065 and closed lower at 2037, but recorded a gain of 3 points over the previous week's closing of 2034.

US dollar

The US dollar weakened further last week and ended the week lower against other currencies as a half point rise in the Fed's discount rate to 7 per cent was more than offset by expecta-

tions of higher European interest rates. Against the mark it fell to its lowest close in more than a month, but was stable against the yen.

The dollar is expected to weaken further this week as the rise in the US discount rate failed to reverse negative sentiment towards it. A rise in West German interest rates this week would erase the new interest rate differential, thus weakening the US currency.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the dollar at 127.00/05 yen and closed higher at 126.05/10 although it was lower compared to its week before last closing of 125.80/90 yen. Trading for most part of the week was quiet and the yen traded aimlessly with traders reluctant to take large positions as the market lacked fresh incentives to push the yen against the dollar.

However, this did not last long as active purchases by the Japanese life insurers for the dollar put a downward pressure on the yen. Japanese life insurers continued to believe the dollar downward trend potential against the yen is limited. Hence their purchases are seen to lock in future profits.

Based at the end of week US prime rate and discount rate rises, we do not expect Bank of Japan to follow suit and raise its rates, since Japan has no inflationary fears, accordingly the yen is expected to trade next week within a lower trading range against the dollar and it would be locked in 126-127 yen.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the dollar at 1.8390/95 marks and closed higher at 1.8170/80 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.8365/75 marks.

Although the mark lost some of its strength against the dollar over the first part of the trading week nevertheless, later in the week it gained more strength on renewed speculation of higher West German interest rates, as West German securities repurchase rates rose to 6.00/6.25 per cent up from 5.90/6.20 per cent a week ago. While investors were seen heavily buying Deutsche mark as interest rates differential between West Germany and other industrial countries became narrower.

Pound sterling

The pound weakened last week, trading in a narrow range. It opened the week at \$1.7505/15 and closed sharply lower at \$1.7560/70, compared to its week before last closing of \$1.7745/55. The pound fell sharply against the mark in Europe after a couple of large orders sparked heavy selling of pounds. It lost ground significantly dropping to around 3.19 marks late in the week from 3.25 marks, earlier in the week as currency markets became dissen-

tioned with high-yielding currencies.

The pound is expected to trade between \$1.74 and 1.75, although it could weaken further this week if talk that interest rates have peaked persists. For the moment, market attention will be focused on Wednesday's trade data for January.

French franc

The French franc opened the week against the dollar at 6.2655/85 francs and closed higher at 6.1890/20 francs compared to its week before last closing of 6.2555/85, as it was buoyed by short-covering figures which showed the trade deficit narrowing to 2.2 billion francs in January from 4.8 billion francs in December.

French GDP grew 3.6 per cent in 1988, up from 2.5 per cent in 1987, according to preliminary figures. Finance Minister Berezgoy said he and his German counterpart Stolltenberg had stressed their commitment to fight inflation at the 4th Franco-German economic council meeting. They cited US and UK inflation rates as worrying signs of a reviving worldwide trend towards higher prices.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc opened the week against the dollar at 1.5670/75 francs and closed higher at 1.5515/20 francs compared to its week before last closing of 1.5595/05 francs.

Swiss banks raised their rates on Feb 24, on all customers time deposits with maturities of 3 to 12 months by 1/4 per cent to 5.1 per cent. The move follows a 5.1 per cent rise in US prime rates on Feb 23, and came amid high European rates. The banks last changed their rates on Jan 19, when they raised the rate by 1/2 per cent. That was the same day the Swiss National Bank raised its discount and Lombard rates by 1/2 per cent to 4 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Precious metals

Precious metals traded strong over the week as they were aided by the falling dollar and world stock markets.

Gold was fairly strong after it touched last week's 26-month low. Furthermore, precious metals touched their week high on midweek upon failure of US Federal Reserve to raise its interest rates and despite end of week rise of US discount rates, precious metals did not respond accordingly.

Over the week speculation reports that the Soviet Union has sold over 500,000 ounces of gold over the past two months to finance its grain imports, although such reports have not been confirmed but it does explain the weak tone gold had compared to other precious metals in the previous weeks.

Reputation

No Central Bank spokesman was immediately available for comment on Tinoco's statements.

Until it announced its suspension of public sector principal repayments on Dec 31, Venezuela had a reputation as a model foreign debtor. It had repaid \$9.5 billion to private foreign banks in the last five years.

However, the suspension of principal repayments is not an especially hard-line move in the regional context, foreign bankers said. This is because other major Latin American debtors are not repaying principal to private foreign banks on most of their debt.

Notifying

He replied: "We are notifying creditors that until Feb 28 we are paying principal and interest payments. From that time onwards we will begin to negotiate in a block, under the same scheme that I previously explained, the deferment and refinancing to ease the burden."

Asked if he was referring to the deferral of principal payments and refinancing of interest on both public and private sector foreign debts, Tinoco replied, "yes."

He said Venezuela sought a refinancing scheme that would allow a cut in the size of the debt.

Venezuela to suspend payments on private sector foreign debt

CARACAS, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Venezuela will suspend principal payments on the country's \$5-billion private sector foreign debt on March 1 and will seek to refinance interest payments on virtually all of its \$32-billion foreign debt, Central Bank president Pedro Tinoco said.

In an interview published yesterday in the daily El Nacional, Tinoco said it was too difficult for Venezuela's economy to comply with its original plan to repay the private sector foreign debt within three years.

Renegotiated

He said this debt, officially calculated at about \$5 billion, would be renegotiated together with the country's \$27-billion public sector debt.

On Dec 31 Venezuela announced a suspension of payments on virtually all the public sector debt pending its renegotiation with private foreign banks.

The country had been scheduled to repay \$1.53 billion in principal payments on the public sector foreign debt this year and \$472 million in prin-

cipal payments on the private sector foreign debt in 1989, according to a Finance Ministry amortisation schedule issued last year.

Tinoco made the comments on private sector foreign debt after being asked what the repayment policy would be under the new government of President Carlos Andres Perez, who took office on Feb 2.

He replied:

"We are notifying creditors that until Feb 28 we are paying principal and interest payments. From that time onwards we will begin to negotiate in a block, under the same scheme that I previously explained, the deferment and refinancing to ease the burden."

Asked if he was referring to the deferral of principal payments and refinancing of interest on both public and private sector foreign debts, Tinoco replied, "yes."

He said Venezuela sought a refinancing scheme that would allow a cut in the size of the debt.

CSC decision to cancel accommodation to hit real estate sector: Nafisi

THE Civil Service Council's decision to cancel government accommodation currently allocated to government employees will hurt the real estate sector, according to Ghazi Faded Al Nafisi Ghazi, deputy chairman of Kuwaiti/Al Salbiyah Real Estate Company.

In an interview with a local daily, Al Nafisi said the decision will have a bad psychological effect on real estate investors. He warned against the effects of the council's decision on a real estate market still recovering from the Manak crisis.

Investors

Al Nafisi called for co-operation between the government, real estate lords, and investors in order to protect this sector. He also said that other sectors of the

economy would be affected by the decision, with the retreat of real estate revenues falling back on local banks which finance the real estate sector.

Commenting on the real estate allowance to be given to employees who have been enjoying government accommodation, Al Nafisi said that not all of it will go toward accommodation. Many employees are paying rent which is less than the allocated allowance, he said.

Decisions

Another official, meanwhile, who asked not to be identified, said the council decision will have no negative effect on the real estate market. He said that on the contrary, the decision will help to "reactivate" the sector. At the same time, the official

said, rent charges will be reduced and real estate prices will drop accordingly. This will create new offers in the market which will in turn reactivate market movement, the official explained.

Asked whether the new decision will create a real estate crisis similar to that of the Manak crisis, the official replied that the Manak crisis was caused by forward sales deals and inflation in equities prices, whereas in the real estate market these things are not available.

The recent decision will not affect other sectors of the national economy negatively, the official added. He noted that the government was renting about 2,000 housing units at a total of about KD20,000 per annum.

'Comprehensive oil industry vital'

Al Wattari tells Arabs to adopt new type of economic bloc

By Mahmoud Abedin

ACTING Secretary-General of OPEC, Abdul Aziz Al Wattari has called upon Arab countries to adopt a new type of economic alliance based upon certain economic sectors. He said that the current international developments necessitate that the Arab nations adopt this concept of economic alliance.

He also called for a revision of current methods of Arab economic co-operation, and for founding true Arab economic establishments similar to those of the European Economic Community.

Alliance

Citing the example of an alliance between six European countries producing coal and steel in 1951, Al Wattari said that OPEC could form an ideal nucleus for a prospective Arab

economic alliance, as the oil industry in the Arab world resembles the coal and steel industries in Europe.

Al Wattari said that by adopting such a method, the Arab world can achieve true economic integration in the future, similar to what the EEC members had achieved.

He said that Arab oil can play its actual developmental role by establishing a comprehensive Arab oil industry with the co-operation of Arab countries.

Meanwhile, OPEC monthly bulletin has said consumption trends indicate that the shift away from oil has run its course. One can read a certain degree of maturation, or saturation, in the stabilization of the drift away from oil.

Oil will once again take a bigger slice of new demand for energy because the obstacles

inherent in the consumption of coal and nuclear power have become more relevant as their use expanded.

The campaign to reduce the role of oil in the world's energy mix has become economically unjustified.

The relative advantage of oil and gas has prevailed. Predictions of the role of nuclear and coal in satisfying future demand for energy have been continuously scaled down.

Change

Foremost among the strongly interrelated factors causing the change in trend are safety, ecology, and cost. Safety, waste disposal problems, and under-estimated costs of changing systems and decommissioning have taken their toll with regard to the aspirations of the nuclear lobby.

Sweden's decision to scrap its nuclear plants over the next two

decades, the slowdown in nuclear programmes in the USA, the UK, the USSR and even France, are clear evidence.

Where coal is concerned, the main environmental advantage of oil and gas is their smaller contribution, to carbon dioxide emissions. Scientists are already detecting the impact of the greenhouse effect on the environment.

The cost of supplying coal is also showing a rising trend, which in turn affects its market price. The price for oil, on the other hand, dropped 50 per cent in less than five years without substantially affecting the short-term capacity to supply oil. No other commodity is endowed with so much intrinsic flexibility.

The reduction in the real oil price and the relative advantage of burning oil and gas will probably inhibit any dramatic growth in the share of alternatives for the next 10-15 years. That demand for energy is on an upward trend would imply a resumption in the rise, albeit modest, of the share of oil in the world energy mix.

No dramatic shifts are to be expected, since the growth in overall demand will continue to be modified by the effects of higher efficiency in fuel consumption and energy conservation, and the institutional restrictions adopted by industrialised countries to inhibit the consumption of oil will take time to modify owing to the political nature of the issue.

The bulletin said that the slow pace of expected shifts in the pattern of energy demand notwithstanding, the environment in which the world oil market will evolve during the coming few years should make the task of OPEC in achieving price stability for oil less arduous.

Japan to change monitoring provision of semiconductor pact

TOKYO, Feb. 27. (AP): Japan has decided to alter its monitoring of overseas computer chip prices, one of the key provisions of a semiconductor agreement between it and the United States, an official said today.

Under the pact, reached in 1985, Japan pledged it would monitor the prices of Japanese memory chips sold in third countries as a means of discouraging their resale in the United States at cheap prices.

The agreement resulted from a series of complaints by US semiconductor makers that Japanese companies had sold memory chips in the United States below their fair market price, a practice known as dumping.

Criticised

The monitoring provision has been sharply criticised by European countries, which charged it regulated prices in other nations and therefore violated the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, an international trade organisation.

In a ruling last March, the GATT said the European complaint was valid.

"The third-country monitoring is not consistent with the GATT, so we will have to modify the agreement," said Taiso Nakatomi, an official in the Ministry

of International Trade and Industry.

He said a high ministry official, Tetsu Mizuno, had left for Washington yesterday to discuss a modification of the pact with US trade officials.

The Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper, reported that Mizuno will seek US consent to discontinue the third-country monitoring, but Nakatomi said Mizuno had no concrete position and would try to reach a compromise with the United States on how to change the provision.

"Under the arrangement with the United States, we have an obligation to monitor prices and sales. But the European Economic Community is saying that we have to completely modify the provision. That's a dilemma for us," Nakatomi said.

He said the Japanese government hoped to find a "middle ground between the two extremes."

In the bilateral semiconductor agreement, Japan also pledged to set a "fair price" for exports of certain key memory chips to the United States, establish a "supply and demand forecast committee" intended to stabilise prices and supply of memory chips, and increase the sales of US-made semiconductors in Japan.

Pirelli announces original equipment records at motor show

A RECORD 336 cars made in Europe and Japan are now fitted by their manufacturers with Pirelli tyres as original equipment, the Milan-based group announced at the Geneva Motor Show recently. This is an increase of 12 per cent on the same time last year, when Pirelli supplied its tyres for 300 cars, itself a record.

The last 12 months have also seen a further, dramatic swing by car makers to Pirelli's ultra-low profile tyres. Of the 336 cars using its radials, 224 or 60 per cent now come off factory production lines with Pirelli's ULP tyres, an increase of 30 per cent on the previous year — and another new record.

Since last March, Pirelli has acquired a total of 48 new tyre supply contracts, including 14 for French-made cars, 10 for cars made in Italy, 10 in Germany and six in Benelux.

Customers

By country, 84 different cars made in Italy are fitted with Pirelli radials as standard equipment, 70 in Germany, 48 in Spain, 47 in France, 23 in Benelux and 16 in Sweden. Pirelli's biggest customer is the Fiat Group, which accounts for 80 of the 84 Italian-made cars on its tyres.

For the first time in almost a decade, the P6 has been overtaken as Pirelli's top-selling ULP radial to the world's car manufacturers. The new top-seller is the P600, now supplied for 90 different car models, with the P6, fitted to 40 cars, dropping to second place in the Pirelli of sales charts.

New cars at the Geneva Motor Show for which Pirelli supplies its tyres, include the Alfa 75 Coupe SZ, Peugeot 405 4x4 M 16 and Volkswagen Corrado. Among existing models to be fitted with Pirelli for the first time are the BMW 750i, Jaguar XJ40 and XJR3.6, Lancia Thema Ferrari 8.32 and the phase II Renault 21S.

Supercars to which Pirelli's Road-Going Formula One tyre, the P Zero, is fitted as original equipment include the 324 kph Ferrari F40, for which the tyre is exclusive on-line OE, the Lamborghini Countach Anniversary, Jaguar XJ 220 and Alfa 75 Coupe SZ.

Launched only last October, the ZR speed rated Pirelli P 700-Z is already factory fitted to the Audi Quattro, BMW M3 Evolution, Lancia Delta Integrales 16 Valve, Porsche Carrera 911 Turbo, Carrera 911 SC, 944 Turbo and 928.

Mahindra's offer to ANL shareholders to remain open for six weeks

ALLWYN Nissan Limited (ANL) was promoted by Hyderabad Allwyn Limited (HAL) in technical collaboration with Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. (Nissan). Allwyn Nissan Ltd's turnover in the first year of operation (1985-86) was Rs 24.86 crores and the loss was Rs 3.43 crores. The turnover for the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 was Rs 15.66 crores and Rs 33.43 crores respectively and the loss Rs 3.65 crores and Rs 4.04 crores respectively.

The accumulated loss up to June 30, 1988 was Rs 11.10 crores. During the first six months of the current year the company turnover was Rs 13.70 crores and the loss of additional Rs 4.07 crores. Thus the total equity of Rs 16.56 crores has been virtually wiped out.

Recently Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd (M&M) have entered into an agreement with Hyderabad Allwyn Ltd for acquiring 26 per cent of the equity of Allwyn Nissan Ltd., leaving 10 per cent of the equity with Hyderabad Allwyn Ltd.

Offer

Under clause 40 of the listing Agreement with the Stock Exchange, Mahindra and Mahindra are required to make an offer to the existing shareholders of Allwyn Nissan Ltd., (including NRIs) to purchase their shares at the same price as agreed to be purchased from Hyderabad Allwyn Ltd.

The price and the terms of offer have been approved by the Stock Exchange.

The offer will remain open for a period of six weeks from the date of opening i.e. Feb 6, 1989 and will close on March 22, 1989. The continuous strengthening of the yen currency in the international market, particularly in relation to the Indian rupee, continues to have an adverse impact on the financial operations of the company. To counter this to some extent, the company proposes to reduce its dependence on imported kits and would endeavour to indigenise its vehicles as early as possible.

However, this process may take some time because of the time that will be required to develop the components locally.

The company's installed capacity at 5000 units per year has therefore remained substantially under-utilized. In view of the time that the company would therefore take to bring itself on the dividend list, the shareholders are left with two options:

To hold on to its shares of ANL till ANL wipes out its accumulated losses due to fresh managerial and financial inputs

that M&M is likely to induct, but it is anybody's guess as to the length of time for which the shareholder will have to continue holding these shares until he or she is in a position to reap the benefits as and when they may accrue — which will only come once the company turns the corner and then wipes out its huge accumulated losses.

Or, alternatively, the shareholder can avail of the offer which M&M has had to make to the shareholders of ANL offering to purchase the equity shares from them at Rs 10/- per share in terms of clause 40 of the listing agreement signed by M&M with the Stock Exchange.

The market price of the equity shares of ANL over the last six months has been fluctuating within the range of Rs 8 and Rs 13, and presently it is being quoted around Rs 9/- per equity share.

However, it may be noted that when the shareholder actually proceeds to sell his lot, it is not certain that he would realise the sale proceeds of the shares at the quoted market price.

Besides when the present offer made by M&M to ANL shareholders would close, it is expected that the market price of ANL shares would substantially drop below par value.

The shareholders of ANL would therefore have to consider if by realising the par value of his holding from M&M he could profitably invest this amount in the wide spectrum of investment opportunities that are presently available in the buoyant capital market.

Kuwait Fund loan for Syria

DAMASCUS, Feb. 27. (OPECNA): The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) is to extend a \$22.14 million loan to Syria for an agricultural project.

KFAED Director-General Bader Al Humaidi said that he was here to sign a loan agreement with the Syrian government for the financing of the Al Ghab project, involving the construction of two water dams in the Al Ghab valley for agricultural purposes.

Al Humaidi noted that the fund had already financed eight projects in Syria to the tune of \$142.90 million.

The KFAED head is scheduled to hold talks with Syrian officials on the possibility of fund assistance for projects in other sectors.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb. 27. (Reuters): Top industrial stocks led a sharp drop in the market by the close as expectations grew of another fall on Wall Street. The All-Ordinaries index fell 15.6 points to 1,470.7.

Dear Junior Readers,

Expressing yourself may sometimes be very difficult, especially when you are short of time or are writing about a subject you are not fond of.

School is not the only place you should depend on to expand your vocabulary.

Reading is a very good way to learn new words and see how they can be put into use. It is essential, however, to keep a dictionary within arms reach to discover the meanings of all new words.

If you are bored and do not feel like reading a full story, try putting a dictionary on your lap and opening a page of random. With your eyes closed place your finger on the page wherever you please and open your eyes to see the word.

If you already know the word, try again.

If the word is new to you, write it down in a special note book, with its meaning and make up three sentences. Try to use this word in your sentences at least ten times during the day. This way it will stick.

You will soon find that you have learnt many new words which will come as a great help when writing school essays or describing a scene or programme to your family and friends.

Manal

About March

Beginning of spring

MARCH is the month when spring begins. When hedgehogs wake from winter sleep and the fields are full of young lambs. Then the 'mad March hare' jumps about courting his mate and overhead the wild geese fly.

Easter is often in the second half of March, but its date varies according to a complicated system. Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection and give Easter eggs because eggs are a symbol of re-birth.

Simmel cakes are made at Easter. A man and his wife, Sim and Nell, mixed a cake and then argued about whether to boil or to bake it. Finally, they agreed to boil it first and afterwards to bake it. It turned out so well that they called it Simmel cake.

The 17 March is the feast day of St Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland. A legend tells how he chased all the snakes from Ireland, and it is a fact that there are no snakes there.

When March is well in it is often warm enough to play out of doors.

Musical bird

The song thrush



YOU can see and hear the song thrush all the year round. People sometimes confuse it with the mistle thrush, although the song thrush is smaller and brighter. It has a brown back and a buff breast with spots. It is found in gardens, hedgerows. It has a musical song which sounds rather like 'Dit-he-dit'... 'Jillie-dit'. It likes to eat snails. Its eggs are turquoise blue, spotted with black. They are laid mainly in April and May in a neatly built nest, woven from grasses, roots, twigs and leaves, and lined with rotten wood or dung. You will find thrushes' nests in bushes, trees and creepers.

Save Our Planet

KHULIT LOVES ANIMALS



ARAB TIMES - MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL

ANIMAL ART COMPETITION

Age Range 4-7, 8-11, 12-14 can either "Paint (draw etc.) Your Favourite Animal" or "Photograph An Animal"

Age Range 15-18, Design a poster "Save Our Animal Kingdom"

Entry is free, include your name, age, contact phone No.

All entries to be taken to Messilah Beach Hotel by 7th March.

First three in each age range will receive an "Animal Prize Goody Bag"

All art work to be displayed at Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday 10th March from mid-day.

Plus many other activities including British Tea Party
* Leo's Magic Show * Football & Basketball shoot out
* Running Races & Golf Putting
* Plus many more side stalls.

For more details contact
5624111 Ext. 751/739

The magic poppy

Continued from Thursday

"Can you knock?" — twice, please," the Poppy asked, in his muffled booming voice, as we hovered for a moment beside it. I leaned forward and knocked. There was a rattle of bolts on the inside, the door opened, and we floated through into the dim cool room beyond.

When I became accustomed to the poor light, I saw that the room was crowded with people; and what very strange people they were. All sizes and shapes, thicknesses and heights. One figure, standing in deep shadow in the corner, looked more like a very large grasshopper than a man. Over by the window, which was shuttered on the inside, stood two extremely tall soldiers. They were quite a bright green all over, and so thin and spindly they could easily have been mistaken for sticks. Then there were other figures, almost as strange: courtiers, soldiers, and some small rather fat little people, dressed entirely in grey leather. In fact, looking closely at them, I'm not sure their faces weren't of leather too. Standing in the centre of the room was a young woman, with a pale face and long greenish-coloured hair. Her dress was light green too, and covered with pearls and precious stones. On her head was a silver crown.

"Your Majesty!" the Poppy said, bending his stalk in the middle, and practically touching the floor with his heavy head of petals. "Your Majesty, I have brought you a visitor!" "Good morning, ma'am," I said politely, although I couldn't help



staring at her long green hair. The Queen, for of course it was she, came over to me, and took me by the hand.

"What is your name?" she said softly. I told her, and where I lived, and how by chance I had seen the Giant Slintingriel, or anyway his legs. "My wicked step-brother," she said sadly, "the two-headed Giant Slintingriel: wicked and cruel. He forces me and my court — those that are left — to stay in this tower day after day. He has stolen the Magic Looking-Glass and the Silver Pipe. He has carried off my husband the King to the Giant's Castle beneath the mountains; and now he roams the beautiful country of Farrenfeugh, pillaging and destroying wherever he goes." She covered her face with her hands and began to weep bitterly.

The courtiers crowded round her and tried to comfort her. I felt very sorry for her, and wondered how such a beautiful creature could have a two-headed giant for a brother.

"I'd like to help you," I said. "If I can. But..." "We must somehow find the King," the grasshopper person interrupted from the corner. "Once our King is sitting on his throne again, Slintingriel will lose his

power. But to find the King we must have the Silver Pipe," he added.

"He took it from me again this morning," sighed the Queen, drying her eyes.

The Poppy, who had been listening to this conversation, with his head bent forward, straightened himself, and began to twirl round on his stalk. Then he called out in a surprisingly loud voice, "Silver Pipe — Silver Pipe — hear me now, and tell us where you are!" Someone opened the shutters and everyone turned his head expectantly towards the window. We stood waiting silently: I wondered what was going to happen. Below us the trees whispered amongst themselves, swaying a little in the summer breeze. Suddenly, silvery piping, very high and sweet, falling like angels' music upon the ear, swelled out from somewhere deep in the forest.

"There it is!" the Poppy cried. "He's hidden it somewhere in the forest. Come, child! We must find it quickly."

"And where will you go then?" The Queen clasped her hands together anxiously.

"To find the King, beneath the mountains. Who else can go, Your Majesty?" The Poppy's voice sounded strong and sure, and I began to tremble with anticipation and excitement.

"Climb up, child, and fold my petals over you for warmth; it is cold where we are going," I did as the Poppy asked; we said good-bye to the Queen and her court and floated out through the open window. The tinkling fragile music



showed us the way to follow, and we soon found the Silver Pipe playing sweetly to itself in a tangle of briar. The bush was very prickly, and the Pipe difficult to reach, but in the end I had it in my hand, and we soared away high above the trees.

"If we had the Magic Looking-Glass as well..." the Poppy said. But he left the sentence unfinished, as if that were more difficult.

"But why does he hide them?" I asked. "Why doesn't he take them with him?"

"They are only magic for a Farrenfeugh person," the Poppy explained gently.

"But I'm not a Farrenfeugh person: I heard the Pipe."

"Part of you must be — I heard you singing one of our songs!" I thought about that for a moment. Then I said: "But why does he hide them then?"

"To stop us from using

them, of course. What questions you ask. He doesn't know that they always answer if they are called."

"Oh! I see," I said.

I didn't, really: there were lots of things I didn't see at all. But the Poppy's voice boomed indistinctly, as if I were sitting in a large bell, and it was difficult to hear what he was saying. So I sat there, snug and warm, peeping out from time to time, wondering where we were. Far beneath us I could see hills and woods, mountains and sometimes the distant sea. Now and then I thought I saw a group of fields, or a house or a cottage that I recognized, but I was never quite sure.

After what seemed a long long time, the Poppy began to float downwards. I poked my head out and saw that we had arrived at the edge of a huge frozen lake, surrounded by dark trees.

(To be continued)

Ha! Ha!

Why are ghosts cowards?
"Cos they've got no guts."

What would you see at a chicken show?
Hentertainment.

How do you stop a cockerel crowing on Sunday?
Cook him on Saturday.

Why do idiots eat biscuits?
Because they're crackers.

What is striped and goes round and round?
A zebra in a revolving door.

What is green and hairy and goes up and down?
A gooseberry in a lift.

Where was King Solomon's Temple?
On his forehead.

What do you call an American drawing?
A Yankee Doodle.

Why party game did Jekyll like best?
Hyde and Seek.

What's tall and smells nice?
A giraff-odil.

What dance do ducks prefer?
A quackstep.

Why do bears wear fur coats?
They'd look silly in plastic macs.

If all the cars in Britain were pink, what would you have?
A car-nation.

What is brown, has four feet, a hump and is found in Alaska?
A lost camel.

Where did the policeman live?
Nine nine nine Let's-Be Avenue.

Poems by you

Little babies

Little babies, little babies,
Soft, little, infant babies
sleeping in the cot
with toys got from the loft.
Drinking milk from the bottle
and playing with toys which make a lot of rattle
Little babies, little babies.

Lying in a soft little blanket
with a chain and pink colour locket
wearing a beautiful pink dress
and dropping drops of milk making a mess.
With soft little infant legs and hands
they play the music band.
Little babies, little babies.

Geetika
U-D
Carmel School

Teddy bears

Teddy bears, teddy bears
soft little teddy bears,
some lie on the table,
some sleep in the cradle.
Furry little toys,
soft little toys,
best for children of their age.
Soft, little, teddy bears.

Teddy bears are so soft,
wonder why mummy keeps them in the loft.
Little bunny bear driving his car,
little cookie maid cooking in the bar.
Those soft, little, curly teddy bears.
Furry ears and furry tails
Cute little teddy bears
Soft little, teddy bears.

Geetika
U-D
Carmel School

Crossword solution from Thursday

Across: 1 Baptised; 7 Rooster; 8 Got; 9 Edge; 11 Shoddy; 14 Repeat; 16 Lobe; 20 Fog; 21 Grating; 22 Strainer
Down: 1 Barge; 2 Prong; 3 Into; 4 Earthy; 5 Aged; 6 Stay; 10 Doe; 12 Dub; 13 Faggot; 14 Lift; 15 Page; 17 Onion; 18 Eager; 19 Gals

Colour me



Happy birthday

Shalima Yousof celebrates her birthday on March 1. Many happy returns from mum, dad and brother Fahad.

Collection corner

Comics

THE first comic strip appeared in an English magazine in 1847, and the first comic paper in 1874. Nowadays, people enjoy collecting old comics, and a year or two ago there was even an exhibition of them in London. You probably already have quite a lot of your own saved up at home, and you'll find it interesting to ask your father what sort of comics he had and whether he has any old ones he has treasured.

Early comics were amusing, with Comic Cuts and Chips running from 1890 to 1953. Others like Hotspur and Magnet contained stories and serials which appealed to schoolboys in particular. Puck and The Rainbow were other favourites with small children, but gradually gave way to Mickey Mouse and his own comic which started in 1936. America introduced Superman and Batman at the end of the 1930s, while England was

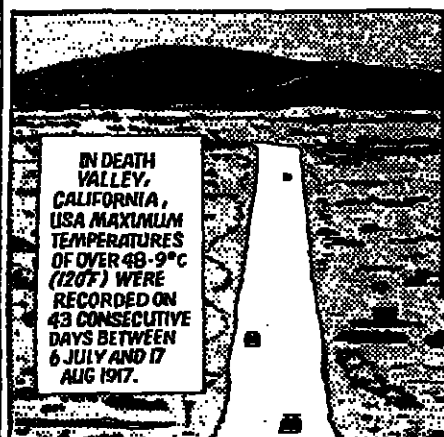
enjoying Film Fun and Radio Fun featuring favourite characters in amusing situations. In the 1940s, Eagle, Girl and Robin were introduced and they combined colourful strips with stories and general information. And early version of the educational magazine was The Children's Newspaper, and in the last few years there have been many children's magazines or comics which have been mainly educational.

Comic magazines have continued with Cor, Whizzer & Chips, Beano and Dandy, but there are now more papers featuring favourite pop stars. In the comic papers, the same characters go on appearing for years, but in pop papers, they change very quickly. If you collect them for a year or two, you will be surprised at the difference. Try to keep comics flat and clean, and arrange them in order of issue.

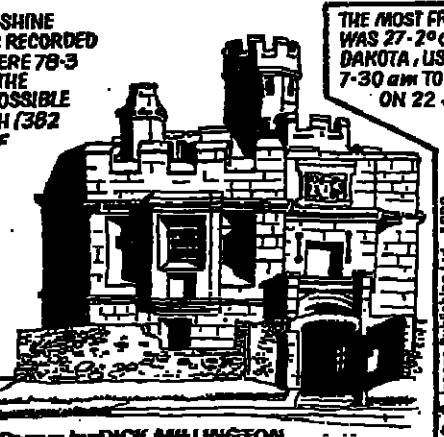
Superman, Billy Bunter and Mickey Mouse appeared regularly in favourite comics



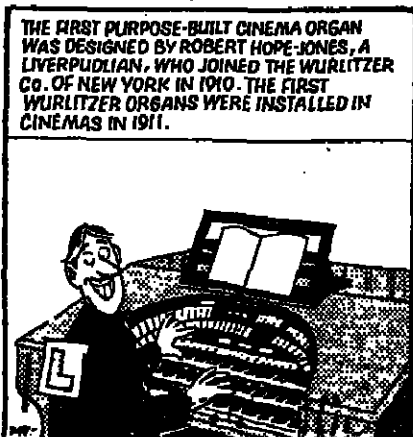
Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



THE BEST SUNSHINE FIGURES EVER RECORDED IN BRITAIN WERE 78.3 PER CENT OF THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE IN ONE MONTH (382 HOURS OUT OF 488) AT PENDENNIS CASTLE, CALMOUTH, CORNWALL IN JUNE 1925.



THE MOST DRAKISH RISE IN TEMPERATURE WAS 27.2°C (49°F) IN SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA, USA FROM -20°C (-4°F) AT 7:30 AM TO 7.2°C (45°F) AT 7:32 AM ON 22 JAN 1943.



THE FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT CINEMA ORGAN WAS DESIGNED BY ROBERT HOPE-JONES, A LIVERPULIAN, WHO JOINED THE WURLITZER CO. OF NEW YORK IN 1910. THE FIRST WURLITZER ORGANS WERE INSTALLED IN CINEMAS IN 1911.



THE TOP MONEYMAKING FILM IN THE USA IN 1949 WAS JOLSON SINGS AGAIN STARRING LARRY PARKS, WHO ALSO STARRED IN ITS PREDECESSOR THE JOLSON STORY (1946).



IN A BALLOT OF THE 35,000 MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE TO SELECT THE 'TOP TEN GREATEST AMERICAN FILMS OF ALL TIME', THE LEADING MUSICAL WAS SINGING IN THE RAIN (1932), STARRING AND CO-DIRECTED BY GENE KELLY.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

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Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION For Rent

YARMOUK, deluxe, CAC, fully furnished ground floor of villa with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining area, large fitted kitchen, beautiful garden and covered car park. Rent KD500. Tele. 5392783.

(AT3-46232-3)

APARTMENT, 2 bedrooms, CAC for a family. Tele. 2413614.

(AT4-46230-3)

SUPRA, 2nd floor of a villa with 4 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms and 2 halls. Tele. 5336017, 3-5pm.

(AT3-46210-3)

Available

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, big room, with water, electricity and kitchen facilities, for a family/working girls, to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102, 502. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243.

(AT4-46143-6)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, near the Fingerprint Office. One room for 2 bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD65. Tele. 2401639.

(AT4-46248-2)

SALMIYA, Amman Street, one room for one bachelor to share with a family. Tele. 5625854, 2pm onwards.

(AT3-46223-2)

SALMIYA, near the Pakistani and Indian schools. Small furnished room with kitchen and tele facilities for a single working lady. Rent KD45. Tele. 5654307.

(AT3-46211-3)

SALMIYA, opp. Whitrose Restaurant, near the Indian school, Flat No. 10, 3rd Floor. Two bedroom flat for immediate possession. Contact: Same personally, after 6 pm only.

(AT4-46237-2)

KUWAIT city in front of the GPO, one room for a small family or 2 working ladies to share with a small family. Tele. Mr. Kabir, 2455550 ext. 2225, 8-9.30 am, 3-4.30 pm.

(AT3-46224-2)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous cinema. Clean and spacious rooms for families. Tele. Qamar-un-Nisa Mohammad Rais 2401332.

(AT3-46220-3)

FAHAHEEL, one room with water and electricity for 1 or 2 Indian bachelors to share with Keralite bachelor. Tele. Mr. Varghese, 3260600 ext. 4348, 7am-1pm.

(AT3-46222-2)

SALMIYA near the Sultan Center, Block 4, One room with water, electricity and tele facilities for a couple or two ladies. Rent KD50. Tele. 5720758, 2619478.

(AT3-46227-2)

FOR SALE

Cars

PORSCHE 928 S, 1981, in very good condition. Tele. 5734676.

(AT4-46231-2)

CITROEN, 1986 model, automatic, red, 40,000 kms with AC, in excellent condition. KD 1400. Tele. 2525343, 5756688.

(AT1-46193-3)

HONDA Accord 1983, automatic, registered upto Nov 1989 with sunroof, AC and stereo, engine in excellent condition. KD750. Tele. Mr. Akbar, 2463220/1, 2465160, 2402562, res. after 7.30 pm.

SAAB 900 Turbo, Oct '87, graphite metallic, insured up to Oct '89, 26,000 kms, personal reasons for sale of immaculate machine. Tele. 2433986, 8am-5pm.

(AT3-46213-3)

NISSAN Liberty, 1984, automatic, 60,000 kms, golden red, insured up to Sept 1989, with AC and 4 doors. KD1,000—KD49 by instalments for 24 months. Tele. 5385094.

(AT3-ADN-TM-3)

CHEVROLET Sprint 1.3 GL 1986, white, automatic, four doors with hatchback, AC, stereo cassette and radio, lady owner in excellent condition. KD1250. Tele. 488485.

(AT1-46196-3)

AUDI 80, 1986 model, automatic, red, 56,000 kms, in clean condition. Regularly maintained. Lady owner leaving Kuwait. KD2000. Tele. 3902105.

(AT1-46194-3)

VOLVO, 240GL, 1985, automatic with AC, 65,000 kms, metallic blue. KD1950. Tele. 2421748, 8 am - 3 pm only.

(AT3-ADN-TM-3)

NISSAN Liberty, 1984, automatic, 60,000 kms, golden red, insured up to Sept 1989, with AC and 4 doors. KD1,000—KD49 by instalments for 24 months. Tele. 5385094.

(AT3-46205-3)

CHRYSLER Laser 1986, with 2 doors, hardtop, 42,000 kms, black metallic, full options, in very good condition. Tele. 5734676.

(AT4-46231-2)

MERCEDES 230E 1982, red with beige leather interior, very clean, one owner full options. KD3,000 (fixed). Tele. 5382658/9.

(AT3-46209-3)

Miscellaneous

MISTRAL — diamond head '87, complete with World Cup camber induced 6 m2 sail, KD280 (fixed). Tele. 5382658/9.

(AT3-46209-3)

SOFA set, wooden showcase, oval wooden dining table with 6 chairs, Ignis (Italian) 2-door refrigerator, 26" Philips TV, Technics stereo set with cabinet and National washing machine. Tele. 5633604, res.

(AT3-46116-3)

VILLA, very attractive, on 1000 sqm in London with 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms for sale. For details tele. Mr. A. Sheheen, 2409686, 4.

(AT3-46217-3)

MARSHALL fridge, freezer, cooker and IKEA kitchen cupboard for sale. Tele. 5389873.

(AT3-46206-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

CIVIL engineer, European specialised in marine works, at present RE on breakwater project in Kuwait, available for new assignment in Gulf area June/July. Tele. 965-3902105.

(AT1-46195-3)

DRIVER with valid Kuwait driving licence, 3 years experience, release letter available, required good home or a company. Please tele. 2402540, 11-3 pm. 6-10 pm.

(AT4-46240-2)

Vacant

MAID required for an American family. Must have transferable residence. Tele. 5641119, 3-6 pm only.

(AT4-SH-TM-3)

MAID required for an American family, part-time or live-in, references required. Tele. 2407920, after 3pm.

(AT1-46199-3)

MAID required Filipina or Sri Lankan for a small family with 2 children, to live-in. Must speak English. Excellent salary. Tele. 2408654.

(AT4-46236-3)

MAID required for a French family with 2 children, to live-in in Messiah. Must speak fluent English. Tele. 3902472, after 4 pm.

(AT4-46233-3)

SERVICES

Transport

REQUIRED for a lady from Mahbooba to Adaliya (Faculty of Commerce), 7.30 am and 1.45 pm. Tele. Mr. Samir, 5637056, 3721290.

(AT4-46244-3)

Tuition

WANTED private tutor for guitar lessons for a beginner. Write to: PO Box 653, 13007, Safat, Kuwait. (AT2-46174-3)

LOST

B.COM certificate, original, including other documents in the name of Honura Pinto. Lost near the K.P.T.C. main bus depot. Finder please tele. Mr. Francis, 5713542.

(AT4-46239-2)

WANTED

SUZUKI RM125, liquid cooled, 1983 or newer, in good condition. Tele. Jeff, 5389606/5390547.

(AT3-46219-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool.

Qatar Real Estate
Tele. 2406592,
2406593

Steiner school for beauty therapy & hairdressing at AL REMAL EST.

Offers:
Diploma in hairdressing
Diploma in beauty therapy for men & ladies.
Part-time courses are offered
Registration begins on 18/2/1989
Transportation available.
Answer Al Sabah Complex Block 23, 3rd floor.
Tel: 2429911/2429888
From: 10 am to 8 pm
The Est. offers special treatment in hairdressing and beauty therapy at a reasonable price.

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Garrison overwhelms Savchenko

OAKLAND, Feb 27, (Reuters): Third seed Zina Garrison overwhelmed fourth seed Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-1, 6-1 yesterday to win the \$250,000 California women's tennis tournament for the second time in three years.

The American, ranked eighth in the world, was far sharper than Savchenko, who appeared to suffer a letdown after upsetting top seed Martina Navratilova 6-1, 6-4 on Saturday in the semifinals.

"The speedy Garrison, who last week lost the Washington final to world number one Steffi Graf of West Germany, attributed her victory to superior physical conditioning.

"I am in the best shape I've been in in a long time," said Garrison, who earned \$50,000. "I think my speed helped me a lot because I was able to run down a lot of shots that would have been winners against other players."

"I also think she might have used a lot of her energy in yesterday's win."

Problems
Garrison broke the erratic Soviet twice in the first set — in the fourth game with a well-placed topspin lob and in the sixth game on a double-fault from the 16th-ranked Savchenko. The American saved the only break point Savchenko could manage with a service ace.

Savchenko had problems with her serve throughout the 53-minute match.

"The balls just didn't go in the court today. It was one of those days where nothing worked, not even the serve," said Savchenko, who earned \$22,500.

Garrison controlled the second set in the same fashion as the first, as she rushed the net at every opportunity and captured Savchenko's serve three times.

"Garrison played better than Martina and my concentration was a little off," said Savchenko.

Karpov takes Linares chess tourney lead
LINARES, Spain, Feb 27, (Reuters): Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union moved into the lead in an international chess tournament yesterday, as he defeated Ivanchuk 1-0.

Karpov beat Iceland's Johan Hjartarson in 35 moves in a Ruy Lopez opening while Ivanchuk adjourned after 40 moves against Andrei Sokolov of the Soviet Union.

Ivanchuk has the advantage and a pawn more and was in a position to get back on terms with Karpov when adjourned games are completed this evening.

Drew
Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union drew against Jan Timman of the Netherlands in a Slav defence after 34 moves and Alexander Beliavsky of the Soviet Union drew with Nigel Short of Britain in a queen's gambit after 3 moves.

Standings after the seventh round:

1. Karpov — five points; 2. Ivanchuk four points (one game adjourned); 3. Ljubovitch 3-1/2; 4. Yusupov — 3-1/2; 5. Short, Gulikov — two (two games adjourned); 7. Jan, Hjartarson — two (one adjourned); 9. Port — two points (one adjourned); 10. Beliavsky — two points; 11. Sokolov — 1-1/2 points (two adjourned).

WORLD NO. 3 TAKES HOME \$123,800

Becker blasts Mayotte for title

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 27, (UPI): At the ripe old age of 21, Boris Becker credits his experience with making him a better player on the pro tennis tour.

"Even though I'm only 21, I feel older," said Becker, who won his second straight tournament yesterday with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1, 6-3 victory over two-time defending champion Tim Mayotte in the \$602,500 Ebel US Pro Indoor Tennis Championships.

"I played here four years ago and not many other players on the tour can say that. Plus my career went through so many stages. I won Wimbledon so early, then I had some setbacks but I came back. That helps you to see things in perspective."

"All these things make me looser on the court. I'm not as tight as I used to be. I go out and give it my all and if I win, great. If I don't, I'm not as down as I used to be."

Becker, the second seed who won a tournament in Milan, Italy, last week, triumphed for the 15th time in 16 matches this year and improved his career record in championship finals to 21-7.

He credits eight weeks of practice after the US Open for his recent surge.



Becker feels he is playing at his best

"The way I'm playing now, I've never played before," said Becker, the world's third-ranked player, who earned \$123,800 for his victory. "From time to time in the past, I played one or two good stretches but for the last six months I've been playing like that. That's the longest stretch I ever had."

Mayotte, who ousted top seed Andre Agassi in the semifinals, failed to join Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe as the only

players to win the Ebel tournament three straight times.

"I had a great week," said Mayotte, who took home \$61,900. "I hit the ball well and I felt relaxed on the court. It's a disappointment not to win but it's a nice addition to the early part of my season."

Serving for the match, Becker, who won his first of two Wimbledon titles at the age of 18, did not allow Mayotte a point as he triumphed with a bullet forehand that Mayotte could not handle.

Mayotte, ranked No. 12 in the world, netted a forehand after a volley shot by Becker to lose his serve and fall behind 5-3 in the third set after trailing 15-40 when he hit a volley into the net.

After taking a 40-0 lead, Mayotte suddenly had trouble getting his first serve in and Becker took advantage with a service break that evened the set at 3-3. Mayotte saved one break point but Becker took advantage of the second with a return of a second serve that Mayotte hit into the net.

Mayotte recorded his first service break of the match to go ahead 2-1 when Becker hit a forehand wide after catching Mayotte out of position with a volley.

Becker whistled a backhand passing shot down the line to break Mayotte for the third time

as he won the second set. Mayotte fell behind 15-40 when he netted a rushed volley.

Becker broke Mayotte's service to go ahead 4-1 in the second set by taking advantage of his second break point when Mayotte's half volley hit the net.

Mayotte had the opportunity to even the set in the previous game but he failed to take advantage of four break points, allowing Becker to hold serve when he hit a forehand long.

Becker used a service return winner to take the first-set tiebreaker 7-4. The same shot had given him a 4-2 lead in the tiebreaker and he went ahead 6-3 on an ace and a serving winner before Mayotte staged off one set point with a volley.

Failed
"In a best-of-five, the first set is important," Becker said. "After I won the first, I felt that if I kept on doing it, I had a chance to win in three."

After the first set, Mayotte's serve failed to bother Becker much at all.

"A little started to come off of it and I lost some confidence," said Mayotte, who had only three aces, compared to eight for Becker, and who got only 58 per cent of his first serves in during the match. "He started to get more rhythm returning."

Knicks score 21st straight home win

NEW YORK, Feb 27, (AP): Jimmy Rodgers sees some of the 1985-86 Boston Celtics in the 1988-89 New York Knicks.

"There's a cockiness and confidence that goes with winning, and that attitude snowballs," the Celtics coach said after the Knicks beat Boston 122-110 yesterday for their 21st consecutive home victory.

Rodgers was an assistant on the 1985-86 Boston team that went 40-1 at home, finished the season with a 31-game home winning streak and went on to win an NBA-record 38 straight at Boston Garden.

The Knicks erased the Madison Square Garden record of 20 straight wins. The mark was set in 1968-69 and matched in 1972-73, the last year the team won an NBA championship.

"Any team that wins consistently at home the way the Knicks have is going to have that attitude that they won't lose at home," Rodgers said. "The Celtics were the same way in 1986."

Mark Jackson had 28 points and 11 assists and Patrick Ewing finished with 26 points, 13

rebounds and seven blocked shots for the Knicks, now 24-1 at home.

In other NBA games, it was Indiana 128, Utah 89; Denver 122, Philadelphia 115; Detroit 110, the Los Angeles Clippers 98; Portland 124, Miami 102; and the Los Angeles Lakers 134, Phoenix 122.

Lakers 134, Suns 122
Byron Scott scored 29 points and Magic Johnson added 25 points and 19 assists as the Lakers extended their Pacific Division lead to 2-1/2 games over Phoenix.

Kevin Johnson scored 30 points and added 21 assists to pace the Suns.

Nuggets 122, 76ers 115
Denver won its ninth straight home game, getting 31 points from Alex English and 22 from Bill Hamlik. 19 more than his average and 13 more than his previous season high.

The Nuggets broke open a close game with a 14-5 run to open the fourth quarter, with Hamlik scoring six points as they extended a two-point lead to 82-71.

Pacers 128, Jazz 89

Indiana won its second straight game after a 13-game losing streak, routing Midwest Division-leading Utah.

Rik Smits and Chuck Person had 10 points each as the Pacers outscored the Jazz 42-22 in the third period. Indiana's most productive quarter of the season.

Pistons 110, Clippers 98
Detroit handed Los Angeles its 28th loss in 29 games as Bill Laimbeer scored 15 of his 19 points in the first quarter and Mark Aguirre had 17 in his first start for the Pistons.

Ishia Thomas led the Pistons with 21 points, while Ken Norman had 22 and Gary Grant 20 for the Clippers.

Blazers 124, Heat 102
Portland won for the first time since Rick Adelman took over as coach on Feb 18 as Clyde Drexler had 26 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

It was the 10th time in his career and second straight game that Drexler reached double figures in all three categories. In the Blazers' loss at Cleveland

Friday, he had 18 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds.

Standings
Association teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under win, lost, winning percentage, games back).

Eastern Conference
Atlantic Division: W L Pct GB
New York 29 18 .617 7
Philadelphia 29 18 .617 7
Boston 25 20 .556 11-1/2
Washington 21 31 .404 14-1/2
New Jersey 21 34 .382 16
Charlotte 15 39 .278 21-1/2

Central Division
Cleveland 41 12 .774 —
Detroit 36 15 .706 4
Milwaukee 37 14 .677 7
Atlanta 34 20 .630 7-1/2
Chicago 32 21 .604 9
Indiana 13 40 .245 28

Western Conference
Pacific Division: W L Pct GB
Utah 33 22 .600 —
Houston 31 25 .556 1
Denver 30 25 .545 3
Dallas 28 24 .538 3-1/2
San Antonio 13 40 .245 19
Miami 8 45 .151 24

Pacific Division
L.A. Lakers 37 17 .685 —
Phoenix 34 19 .641 2-1/2
Seattle 32 20 .615 4
Golden State 30 21 .588 5-1/2
Portland Trail Blazers 26 26 .500 10
Sacramento Kings 13 38 .254 21-1/2
L.A. Clippers 11 45 .196 27

RUGBY

French coach opts for power against England

PARIS, Feb 27, (Reuters): French coach Jacques Fouroux yesterday put his faith in the power of the pack when he named his side for the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship clash against England in London on Saturday.

Fouroux made three changes to his forward line-up in a bid to counter the powerful English forwards in a match which could decide the championship.

He recalled prop Claude Portolan, who weighs a massive 120 kgs, for his second cap and named another giant, Laurent Rodriguez, at number eight following his recovery from injury. Marc Cecilien, dropped for the 31-12 rout of Wales, also returns.

Thrilling
The French are on course for the Grand Slam after thrilling wins against Ireland and Wales inspired by dazzling full-back Serge Blanco and will win the championship if they triumph at Twickenham and Scotland lose at home to Ireland the same day.

With slight injury doubts hanging over Alain Lorieux and Philippe Sella, Fouroux will name his definite line-up after tomorrow's training session.

Emry to make debut for Wales

CARDIFF, Feb 27, (Reuters): Swansea wing Arthur Emry was selected yesterday to make his international debut for Wales against England in the final round of the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship at Cardiff Arms Park on March 18.

Emry, 26, replaces Carwyn Davies in the only change to side beaten 31-12 in Paris on February 18.

The Welsh, who have the bye in Saturday's fourth round, have lost all three of their championship matches this year.

Wales — Paul Thorburn (captain); Ieuan Evans, Mike Hall, David Evans, Arthur Emry; Paul Turner, Robert Jones; Mark Jones, Gary Jones, Robert Norster, Phil Davies, David Bryant, Mike Griffiths, Ian Watkins, Laurence Delaney.

Dawood and Faye shoot straight

THE Kuwait Archery Federation held a fun shoot to celebrate the National Day. It was the biggest shoot ever held at the Hunting & Equestrian Club with 40 competitors participating.

The first competition was for the juniors and they had to shoot animal targets with their bows stripped of all sights, long rods and V-bars. This is called barebow shooting and takes the archers right back to the way their ancestors shot without any sophisticated equipment.

It was a closely fought competition with Dawood Esmail scoring 43 and Anurag Galthotra 42. Third place went to Unni Menon with 27.

The beginners showed their worth with the same targets and the same distances. Faye Al-Zerban scored an excellent 22 with Mohammed Radi scoring 19.

Third place went to Ali Al Ghanim with 17.

Then it was the turn of the seniors who shot 18 arrows at 15 metres. They also used barebows and this was more difficult for the experienced archers who are used to always shooting with sights and stabilizers. Again it was a close result with Hani Badr scoring 48 and Carolyn Tshering scoring 45. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Turque was a close third with 44.

The next event was wand shooting. The archers shot at a softwood stake 5cm wide and 1.8 m high at a distance of 70 metres. The first person to hit the wood was declared "Robin Hood" and that prize went to Frenchman Alex Demotte. In the juniors section, the competitors shot at a wand 30 metres away and the "Robin Hood" was Unni Menon.

The most exciting event was the balloon bursting competition. 24 children took part and each pair had to shoot at 6 balloons. The pair who shot all 6 balloons first was Dawood Esmail and Unni Menon, but it was a very close competition with many couples down to their last balloon on the sixth end.

The final event was an international shoot and each couple shot 30 arrows at a distance of 25 metres. The American couple of Phil Hall and Dawood Esmail came first with 230, followed by Egyptians Hani Badr and Ezz Al Arab with 229 and Indians Anurag Galthotra and Unni Menon third with 221.

The next competition is for the senior division on March 10. For further information Tel 4739199 ext 48 or 31.

Menon.

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Indians and Tigers outlast opponents

INDIANS overcame a tough Cubs side 15-9 in a Kuwait Little League baseball game on Friday.

The Cubs looked good with Nader bringing in Adil and Basil with his single in the first inning. Alfa was a big hitter, getting a double and a single each time at bat. Florian did his usual good job for the team getting on base with a single in the second and fourth innings. Nader earned 2 RBIs with his great hit in the fourth. Jordan's single brought in 2 runs while Junaid's single brought a run in the fourth inning.

Not only was the Cubs offense looking good, so was the defense. Cubs pitcher Basil made eight of the outs single handedly.

Earned
While the Cubs looked good, the Indians were better. Nimeet, the third baseman, had a double bringing in 2 runs. Bader Al Anizi earned 5 RBIs for his team with a homerun in the third inning and hits in the first and fourth innings. Khalid Sadiq had 3 singles earning 2 RBIs and Tareq Al Ghareeb earned 1 RBI.

Mesha Al Khabbaz, the Indian pitcher, had another great day with a homerun in the second inning bringing in 1 run and then a single in the third and fourth bringing in 1 more run for his team. Asil also had a great day with 3 singles and 1 run. Ahmad Alami and Omar did a good job for the Indians, hitting singles each of the 3 times they got to bat.

The Cardinals and Royals played some excellent baseball. The Royals started off strong, leading at the end of the first inning 4-0. Shah Badaou and Mohammed Khan were brought in by Shemlan Khabaz's double. Then Jason Zeplan's double brought in Shemlan. Jimmy Riley had a nice single bringing in Jason and the Royals got off to a great start. The Cardinals defense held the Royals to 0 runs in the second and third innings but the fourth inning Mohammed had a triple, bringing in 2 runners and Shemlan's double brought in Mohammed. The fifth inning it was 3 batters up and 3 batters down. The Royals had to settle for a final score of 7 runs.

The Cardinals got off to a slow start, failing to score in the first 2 innings. The third inning turned the game around. Jihad Sakleh had a triple, bringing in 1 run. Hisham Navarro had a double, earning 1 RBI and Peter Punj's double earned him 1 RBI. Rusty Stombaugh's single brought Peter home and the score was tied up 4-4.

In the fourth inning Jihad Sakleh hit a home run with the bases loaded. Peter singled and MinSoo Kim brought Peter in with his double.

The final inning saw Tala Navarro hit a triple and Jihad Sakleh came up with another home run. Jihad earned 5 RBIs in this game. Peter doubled and Rusty had a triple earning 3 RBIs. The Cardinals won 16-7.

In another game, Tigers over-

came Pirates 11-9. After the first inning, scores were tied 4-4. Big hitters for the Pirates were Khairy Abduljabbar with a triple bringing in 2 runs. For the Tigers it was one single after another.

After the second inning, the score was tied up 7-7. The Pirates got John, Osama and Samer in for the Tigers. Ali hit a triple bringing in 2 runners and Nawaf's single brought in Ali.

The third inning saw the Tigers pull ahead with Nicholas, Ridha, and Rashed getting home. The Pirates only scored 1 run, Tarek Abou Ghazale. The fourth and final inning was spectacular for the Tigers. Osama got home on Nicholas Anderson's single but Tiger's pitcher made three outs to turn the game Tiger's way.

The Astros beat the Mets 13-8 in a spectacular game. The first inning score was tied up 1-1. Rahman Al Salem got on base with a walk, stole around to third and made it home on Ziad Sakleh's single. For the Mets it was Tarek Salami who scored.

Strong
In the second inning, everyone scored. For the Astros 8 batters were walked to first. Ryan Fox had a single, bringing in 1 run. Justin Bollig then hit a triple, bringing in 3 runs. The Astros scored nine runs in that inning. The Mets scored six. Gibran Hamdan had a nice hit bringing in 2 runs and Shadab Koubassi's hit brought in 2 runs.

The Mets held the Astros in the third inning but Haithem Al Ribah scored for the Mets. In the final inning, the Astros looked strong. Rahman had a triple, Ahmed Fatah got on base with a walk and Ziad hit a home run, earning RBIs for himself and runs for the team.

The final game for the day was between the Blue Jays and Mariners. In the first inning, the Mariners pulled into a strong lead scoring 7 runs to the Blue Jays 3. The Blue Jays' Kareem Nakshabendi had a single and Mazin Shaiti's single brought Kareem in. Sahar Al Nasrallah got on base with walk, but was able to steal all around the bases, even stealing home.

The second inning saw the Blue Jays score 9 runs to the Mariners' 7. Mariners' Fahed Methni brought in 1 run with his nice hit. Jacob Al Ameri earned 1 RBI for his hit and Magmas Granander brought in 2 runs. Magmas had 4 RBIs for the day. Shikhar Pareek earned 2 RBIs on a single.

Double
Blue Jays' hitters were Rame Haji with triple and earning 3 RBIs. Kareem Nakshabendi's double brought in 1 run, Mazin Shaiti's single brought in 1 run and Wadhah Kalaf's single brought in 3 runs.

In the third and fourth innings, both teams defense kept the scoring low. Firas Afani, of Blue Jays, had a nice double but couldn't get home to score. The final score showed the Mariners on top with 14 runs to the Blue Jays 13.

V.Germans seek victory in Safari Rally

the number one rally in the world. For us, it is the event we want to win more than any Volkswagen team boss Peter Rosorius is emphatic as he feels for the Marlboro Safari Rally, Kenya.

At the beginning of the international race last Easter, the German returns once more in his two front-wheel-drive Tis for Erwin Weber/Feltz and Stig Blomqvist for Cedric.

Steps
1984 world champion Stig Blomqvist steps into the void left by the late Swedish driver Erik Torph. Spectating on the Monte Carlo Rally in January, West's Weber, so nearly a champion for Opel on his debut in the Marlboro Safari Rally, subtly by one of the for outright victory.

Weber, he will have to challenge of the 1988 reigning world champion Miki Biasion of Italy. The leaders spearhead a pack alongside Safari driver Fred Gallagher of Northern Ireland in the old Supra Turbo. The team consider their exciting new Celica GT4 too young yet to ace the rigours of a full Safari route. Kenyan national champions



Biasion: won the rally last year

at the beginning of February. Team boss Cesare Fiorio feels that Recalde's physical stamina could prove a decisive factor during the event.

There is no doubt about the strength of three-times Safari winner Bjorn Waldegard! The Swede returns once more with co-driver Fred Gallagher of Northern Ireland in the old Supra Turbo. The team consider their exciting new Celica GT4 too young yet to ace the rigours of a full Safari route.

Ian Duncan Ian Munro pilot a second works Supra, a just reward for their excellent results. Nissan too field a two-car works team, with Kenyans Mike Kirkland Robin Nixon, second in 1988, paired with their old friends Per Eklund of Sweden and Britain's Dave Whitlock, who brought their 200SX home third last year.

The 1989 Marlboro Safari Rally marks the tenth year of sponsorship for this classic African adventure from Philip Morris. "We are delighted to be

able to celebrate our ten-year association together," commented Nick Nganga, chairman of Safari Rally Limited. "And we are pleased to welcome our co-sponsors Seiko Epson back for a third year also."

Ten years ago, it was Kenya's Shekhar Mehta who was making all the headlines as he took the third of his historic five victories on the Safari. In 1989, Mehta will mastermind the works effort of the Japanese Subaru works team, whilst his indefatigable former co-driver Mike Doughty, now managing director of Safari Rally Limited, masterminds the event itself.

As last year, the route is divided into seven sectors, totalling some 4500 kilometres, 50 per cent of which is competitive. However, recent heavy rains may mean some cuts.

The first car leaves the familiar festive setting outside the Kenyatta Conference Centre in Kenya's capital Nairobi at 10.00 hrs on Thursday, March 23 and heads for the one and only 'Super Special' of the event, a twisty six kilometres at Athi River which can prove a real trial of skill, particularly if it is wet! The cars then head south for the infamous Chyulu Hills and the first of two runs through the Taita Hills, punctuated by an afternoon

break at Ndara Ranch. The second run through the Taitas at night will prove a real challenge and is not for the fainthearted. Nor is the second attack on the infamous long grass of the Chyulu before the return to Nairobi for an overnight halt.

The third sector takes cars north to the Nanyuki halt then up into the semi desert region at a time which offers a sensational shot of Mount Kenya at dawn.

Kabernet is the next stop before drivers embark on an all night haul via the Fluorspar Mine Escarpment and the Cherangani, across the slopes of Mount Elgon and finally to Kakamega.

Sunday morning takes the cars into tea country, the bright green estates stretching as far as the eye can see, over the Mau, thence back to Nairobi via the Rift Valley.

Scheduled
The seventh and final sector for those still in the hunt leaves Nairobi at 03.00 hrs on Monday, March 27 and returns to the capital after the usual 'Doughty' stint in the tail, over the Mau. The first car is scheduled to reach the ramp at 11.30 hrs on Easter Monday, at the end of yet another exhausting but exhilarating Marlboro Safari Rally.

Chrysler & Mitsubishi cars

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Bring your vehicle to our modern service garages at Al Rai & Ahmadi. Our Service Engineers will perform a thorough bumper to bumper check on your vehicle and give you a report on its safety & performance while you wait.

Special Offer If you wish to leave your car for recommended repairs on 3rd Mar. we will give you a Free Replacement Car for the duration of repair from Al Mulla Rentals.

DRIVE IN AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SERVICE FOR SAFETY SCHEME

FREE CAR OFFER FOR BOOKING MADE ON 3 MAR '89 ONLY

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Malhotra Trophy

THE finals of the "Malhotra Trophy" cricket tournament organised by the Unity Cricketers will be played on Friday at the New Ground in Ahmad. Kifco meet Falcon in this full day 45-overs-a-side encounter at 9.00 am. Umpires nominated will be from Unity. The chief guest is Bhupinder Nath Malhotra and the prize distribution will be held in the evening the same day.

Indian cricketer

NEW DELHI, Feb 27, (Reuters): The family of a man allegedly beaten to death by Indian Test cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu is seeking to overturn a court's decision to grant him bail in a move that would allow him to tour the West Indies.

Cup qualifier

PARIS, Feb 27, (Reuters): French team chief Michel Platini today named a mixture of youth and experience for the vital World Cup soccer qualifier against Scotland in Glasgow on March 8.

Cricket chief

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 27, (Reuters): South African cricket chief Ali Bacher said today he would urge English players to continue their links with this racially-divided republic despite the threat of an international ban if they do.

Defensive role

MUNICH, West Germany, Feb 27, (Reuters): Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes is banking on new signing Erlend Johnson from Norway playing a key defensive role on his debut in the European Football Union (UEFA) Cup tomorrow.

W. German athlete

BONN, Feb 27, (Reuters): West Germany's Olympic 100 metres hurdles bronze medalist Claudia Zaczekiewicz has pulled out of the World Indoor Athletics Championships in Budapest starting on Friday.

Pace bowler

LONDON, Feb 27, (Reuters): Surrey have signed Queensland left-arm pace bowler Dirk Tazelaar for this year's county cricket season as a backup for West Indian Sylvester Clarke.

Shield cricket

PERTH, Australia, Feb 27, (Reuters): Scores on the fourth and final day of the four-day Sheffield Shield cricket match between Western Australia and Queensland today, Queensland 291 and 177 for two Western Australia 294 for seven declared (Graeme Wood 119 not out, Ken Macleay 70). Match drawn.

Tenerife Open

LALAGUNA, Tenerife, Feb 27, (Reuters): Overnight leader Jose-Maria Olazabal fired birdies on each of the first three holes of the final round of the Tenerife Open yesterday and never looked back. The Spaniard finished with a final round of 70 and a 13-under-par total of 275 to win by three strokes from countryman Jose-Maria Canizares and Englishman David Gifford.

Crowd control

ESTORIL, Portugal, Feb 27, (Reuters): Organisers have gone to unprecedented lengths to tighten crowd control for the Portuguese motor rally starting tomorrow after the death of three people in recent years.

INTIKHAB ALAM ACCUSES NEW ZEALAND UMPIRES OF BIAS

Kiwis try to keep Pakistani spinners at bay

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 27, (Reuters): New Zealand batsmen doggedly fought Pakistan's spin attack today in an effort which may have saved them the third and final Test.

New Zealand were 360 for seven at the close of the fourth day, still 256 behind Pakistan's first innings total of 616 for five declared. Ian Smith was on 37 and Jeff Crowe on 26.

Play was punctuated by concerted appeals to umpires Brian Aldridge and Steve Woodward who were at times surrounded by the entire Pakistan team apart from captain Imran Khan.

Team manager Intikhab Alam later accused the umpires of bias and said it had reduced Pakistan's chance of winning. "At times it was biased," he told reporters.

Neutral

He said five or six decisions went against Pakistan. "It was bad, categorically I would say that."

Intikhab repeated the plea he made after the second Test for neutral umpires.

"There's something got to be done. This great game is suffering because of this," he said.

He was not critical of the Pakistani players' methods of appealing. "I don't think it's threatening when it was 200 per cent out," he said.

New Zealand Cricket Council member Peter McDermott said he was staggered by the com-



Martin Crowe: blunted the Pakistan attack

ments, calling them premature.

"The NZCC has complete confidence in the umpires approved. We are amazed a visiting manager should talk of bias."

Asked to comment on the Pakistanis' behaviour, he said: "We were dismayed to see the dissent to the extent we did."

On a pitch taking increasing

turn and still providing bounce, Abdul Qadir provided a fascinating display of the leg-spinners' art.

New Zealand began the day with a perilous overnight score of 133 for four but Martin Crowe and Mark Greatbatch appeared to have played them to safety until just before tea when Pakis-



Qadir: put on a fascinating display

tan achieved a dramatic three-wicket breakthrough.

Salim Jaffer broke the fighting 154-run fifth wicket stand when he had Crowe taken by keeper Salim Yousuf down the legside for 78. Qadir took the next two wickets with consecutive balls and went to the interval on a hat-trick.

He bowled Greatbatch for 76, playing across the line, and undid John Bracewell in similar fashion with a googly.

Martin Crowe and Greatbatch had blunted the Pakistan attack until the collapse.

Crowe, off to a slow start in the morning, launched into the attack in the afternoon, cracking

three fours in one Qadir over as he raced towards his 50.

Crowe's 78 came in just over four hours and included 10 fours. Greatbatch's 76 was scored in similar time and included 12 fours.

Smith and Jeff Crowe later battled to revive the innings and safely negotiated the final session, with their 50 partnership coming in a smart 79 minutes.

The first Test was abandoned because of rain and the second was drawn.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 616 for five declared (Javed Miandad 271, Shoaib Mohammad 112, Salim Malik 80 not out, Imran Khan 69 not out)

NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 133 for four)

R. Vance c Shoaib Mohammad b Abdul Qadir 68

J. Wright c Rizwan-uz-Zaman b Tameez Ahmed 2

A. Jones run out 7

M. Crowe c Salim Yousuf b Salim Jaffer 78

S. Boock c Mudasar Nazar b Abdul Qadir 8

M. Greatbatch b Abdul Qadir 76

J. Crowe not out 26

J. Bracewell b Abdul Qadir 37

L. Smith not out 18

Extras (sb-9 b-7 lb-2) 368

Fall of wickets: 1-132-122-3-123-4-132-5-286-6-294-7-294.

To bat: R. Hadlee, E. Chatfield.

Bowling: Salim Jaffer 18-6-44-1 (3-4), Imran Khan 21-6-41-0, Tameez Ahmed 64-25-102-1, Abdul Qadir 51-13-156-4 (6-4), Shoaib Mohammad 2-1-0, Mudasar Nazar 3-1-7-0.

Osasuna dent Barcelona's title hopes

MADRID, Feb 27, (Reuters): Barcelona's first home defeat this year, 2-1 against humble Osasuna yesterday, could cost them dear in the fight for Spanish Soccer League honours.

It left them in second place on 34 points from 23 matches, three points adrift of arch rivals Real Madrid, who have played a game less and who underlined their determination to retain the title with a 5-1 mauling of Real Betis.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff admitted the result was a blow.

"This defeat makes it a bit difficult for us. But there are many games left and we shall keep fighting," he said.

Real's coach Leo Benhakker was understandably elated with his team's performance. "We are improving with each game. It is difficult to stop us when we play like this," he said.

The championship race now looks certain to be decided between these two after third-placed Atletico Madrid saw their hopes disappear at Real Oviedo where

they slumped to a 5-2 defeat. Atletico retained third place on goal difference but with 27 points from 23 games they are 10 points behind the leaders.

In West Germany, Bayern Munich kept their unbeaten record intact with a 3-2 win over Karlsruhe to stay four points clear of defending champions Werder Bremen.

A 64th minute goal from West German international midfielder Norbert Meier gave Werder a win over Kaiserslautern but their minds appeared to be more on Wednesday's European Cup quarterfinal clash with AC Milan.

"Of course we were all thinking about Wednesday a bit," admitted striker Karl-Heinz Riedle. "You don't push yourself right to the limits in that situation."

AC Milan showed no such reserve in their Italian League match yesterday when they turned in a brilliant performance to crush Pescara 6-1.

Two of their goals came from

veteran Pietro Paolo Virdis but both he and defender Paolo Maldini will miss Wednesday's European clash because of suspension.

Dismayed

Also likely to be missing through injury are Filippo Galli and Mauro Tassotti, but their Dutch international Ruud Gullit refused to be dismayed.

"I am optimistic because the victory against Pescara came about in a pleasant way with Milan keeping up a fast pace for 90 minutes," he said.

Internazionale stayed two points clear at the top of the League with Aldo Serena scoring twice in their 3-0 win at Pisa, while second-placed Napoli beat Lecce 4-0 at home.

A last-minute goal by Fred van der Hoorn gave Den Bosch a 2-2 home draw against leaders PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch First Division.

However, second-placed Ajax Amsterdam failed to take advantage, managing only an uninspired 1-1 draw at home to FC

Twente to allow PSV to maintain their five-point lead.

Meanwhile, Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona yesterday hosted at his team's San Paolo stadium in Naples a 15-year-old sports fan hospitalised on New Year's Eve after being attacked by hooligans following a match.

Daide Fornarioli of Cremona, in northern Italy, and his father Gastone, watched Maradona's Napoli crush Lecce, after meeting the star in the locker room. The youth kicked a ball back and forth with Maradona before thousands in pre-game warm-ups.

"It's absurd that a boy has to risk his life for a soccer game because of the misdeeds of pseudo-fans," said Maradona, a longtime advocate of non-violence on and off the field. Fornarioli was beaten up by hooligans on Dec 31 in Brescia after attending an away match of his hometown team, Cremona.

Soccer violence flared yesterday in northern Cesena after a game between that city's team and Turin's Juventus.

Incredible and Strikers reach final

INCREDIBLE and Strikers reached the finals of the 6th annual Y.R.C. Football Tournament with victories over Starlite and G.C.A. respectively at the Sour grounds on Friday.

For Incredible this is the third consecutive year that the team has reached the final. Incredible's victory came after a hard-fought match against Starlite. The game went into a penalty shoot-out, from which Incredible emerged victorious.

Incredible, the two-time champions, were given a hard

time by Starlite who thwarted all their rivals' moves to score. Leno, Antau, Jovito and Redo scored for Incredible while only Joseph and Amroz found the mark for Starlite.

Reflex

In the second game, Strikers beat G.C.A. 2-0 but the score does not reflect the fight that the young G.C.A. side put up.

G.C.A. started the match with attacks on the rival goal but missed their chance to take the lead when they shot wide on a number

of occasions.

Strikers, one of the oldest expatriate soccer clubs in Kuwait, got back into the game after G.C.A. failed to avail the chances that came their way.

Varghese put Strikers ahead before the half-time whistle when he dodged past two G.C.A. defenders and placed the ball into the goal from a very difficult angle. The score remained 1-0 at half-time.

Felix got the second goal for Strikers from a goalmouth melee.

Benfica struggle past Belenenses

LISBON, Feb 27, (Reuters): A last-gasp goal gave leaders Benfica a 1-0 win over Belenenses in the Portuguese First Division yesterday while Porto maintained their challenge with a 5-0 rout of Farense.

Angolan striker Vata Garcia headed the winner two minutes from time from a Diamantino free-kick after Benfica looked set to drop a point having seen three earlier efforts disallowed.

Fewer

Benfica remain five points clear of Porto with 11 games left.

Porto encountered fewer problems against a struggling Algarve side who have yet to win since Englishman Malcolm Allison took over as manager five weeks ago.

Unlikely

Johnson — banned from competition for two years — also has stayed away from the hearings. His lawyer has said it is unlikely the Canadian immigrant will turn up until he is compelled to testify.

In the small seaside town of Falmouth, Jamaica, where Ben Johnson Sr lives, there remains disbelief and bitterness over the scandal that toppled one of the Caribbean island's greatest heroes.

In Lausanne, Switzerland, there is hope and conviction that this — the most publicised of all drug tests — will help eradicate the problem that Dublin has called the greatest threat to amateur sport.

Strachan, 32, has not played for 18 months but was forced to pull out of three of Roxburgh's squad selections during the past year. McCoist has begun to score goals regularly again after his four-month absence due to a hamstring problem.

Gillespie, 28, who won the last of his four caps in the 2-1 win over Norway last September, was included in manager Andy Roxburgh's 20-man squad for next Wednesday's European Group Five qualifier against France at Hampden Park.

Roxburgh has made three changes to the squad which travelled to Cyprus where Scotland won 3-2 earlier this month.

Gillespie, Rangers striker Ally McCoist and Manchester United midfielder Gordon Strachan return in place of Alan McNally of Aston Villa, Hearts'

Goalkeepers — Jim Leighton, Andy Goram, Bryan Gunn. Defenders — Richard Gough, Maurice Malpas, Steve Nicol, Dave Naray, Alex McLeish, Gary Gillespie.

Midfield — Roy Aitken, Ian Ferguson, Murdoch MacLeod, Paul McStay, David Speedie, Gordon Strachan.

Forwards — Charlie Nicholas, Ally McCoist, Brian McClair, Mo Johnston, Kevin Gallacher.

Scotland select Gillespie for World Cup qualifier

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 27, (Reuters): Liverpool defender Gary Gillespie, who has yet to play in a losing Scotland side, won a recall to the World Cup soccer squad yesterday after recovering from a serious knee injury.

Gillespie, 28, who won the last of his four caps in the 2-1 win over Norway last September, was included in manager Andy Roxburgh's 20-man squad for next Wednesday's European Group Five qualifier against France at Hampden Park.

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Glasson holds on to clinch Doral crown

MIAMI, Feb 27, (Reuters): Bill Glasson held on to win the \$1.3 million Doral Open golf tournament by one stroke over Fred Couples yesterday despite three back nine bogeys.

"Actually I played very poorly," said Glasson, who shot a final round even par 72 for a 13-under-par 275 total.

"It's great to win but it's tarnished by the way I played, especially from the ninth hole on," he said after collecting \$234,000 for his fourth career victory in six years on the US Tour.

Glasson was tied for the lead with Mark Calcavecchia through 13 holes. But Calcavecchia bogeyed the 14th and suffered a cruel double bogey six on the final hole when his second shot drifted left and sailed into the water.

"I played great on the front nine and felt I had everything under control, but I got rattled after three-putting the 11th hole for a bogey," said Calcavecchia, who shot a two-over 74 and finished tied for third place with Curtis Strange and Bruce Lietzke at 10-under 278.

Shoot

Calcavecchia shot an embarrassing five-over-par 41 on the back nine. "I didn't think I played bad enough to shoot a 41 on the back nine, but who knows, maybe I'll shoot a 31 next year and win."

Glasson had his own problems after three birdies and no bogeys through the first eight holes. He bogeyed the ninth, 11th and 13th holes before pulling back a stroke with a 12-foot birdie putt on 16 to lose it with yet another bogey on 17.

Couples came on strong toward the end to challenge Glasson. Despite a double bogey on the fourth hole, couples had the steadiest round of the leaders with a four-under-par 68. He shot six birdies and finished alone in second place at 12-under 276.

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Lewis beaten again over 60 metres

OVIEDO, Spain, Feb 27, (AP): Cuban sprinter Ricardo Chacon upset Olympic 100-metre gold medalist Carl Lewis yesterday to win the 60-metre dash in the Oviedo Indoor Track and Field Meet.

The American placed second behind Chacon, who won in 6.57 seconds and set a Cuban record. Lewis' time was 6.64.

Third was Dennis Mitchell of the United States in 6.69, followed by Valentin Rocardio Cliveti of Spain in 6.78 and Joel Isasi of Cuba in 6.88.

It was Lewis' second defeat by a Cuban in Spain. In an indoor meet in San Sebastian Feb 10, Andres Simon won the 60-metre dash in 6.58, with American Mark Witherspoon placing second in 6.59 and Lewis finishing third in 6.60.

Captured

Simon did not run in Oviedo. Lewis was scheduled to participate in another Spanish Indoor Meet in Seville tomorrow.

A crowd of 5,000 watched the meet in the Municipal Sports Palace.

American Floyd Heard won the 200-metre event in 21.32, followed by compatriots Calvin Smith in 21.84 and Renaldo Nehemiah in 21.98.

Danny Everett of the United



Chacon (right) crosses the finish line ahead of Lewis (2nd left). (Reuters wirephoto)

States captured the 4